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The Baron's Revenge;

Or, The Castle's Ghost

By Pierre Dastarac

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APTER I.

UNCHBACK.

HE castle was situated in the center of the little town of F——, located in the gorge of a narrow valley at the foot of the Pyrenees, forty-four miles south of Toulouse, France. It stood perched, dark and tragic, on the ...ocular rock ...looming above its uneven, ir... streets and humble homes. Be... g the sole object of interest in ... was also the chief cause of un... superstitious fear of its ...ucated inhabitants.

This impression of awe caused by his way of living and the place where he dwelt was intensified, as it were, by the man's personal appearance, which was far from inspiring confidence. He was strangely deformed, with the head placed in such a way on the humped and twisted shoulders as to make it appear as though the original head and neck had been cut off, and this one had been glued to the trunk of in its place. The face itself was strangely, almost unhumanly, handsome, with perfect features of the classical type, magnificent eyes, and a sensitive, almost feminine mouth. This beauty, coupled with his deformity, intensified the awe inspired by the man, and pious people would utter a prayer, as they thought perhaps this unfortunate being had sold his soul in exchange for that handsome face, and that he was now waiting the chance to lure some other soul to ruin, that his master, the Evil One, might give in exchange a body in keeping with the face for which he had paid so dearly.

He had appeared in F——, some fifteen years before, arriving one evening from Toulouse. He had asked the way to the castle, and that very night had set out alone for the haunted ruin, no one being willing to accompany him, though he had offered liberal pay. All he carried with him that night was a queer-looking box filled with small holes; the rest of his baggage he left at the station. The next morning, much to the astonishment of the villagers, who never expected to see him again, he redescended to F——, and finding still that everybody refused to carry his luggage to the haunted castle, he had purchased a horse and wagon and carried them up himself, with enough provisions to last him a month. Since then, with the exception of an annual absence of one month, he had lived at the castle. Every year, however, on the 25th of October, he would turn the old horse loose, descend to F——, and take the train for Toulouse. In exactly thirty days he would return, and for another eleven months would remain alone in the old castle.

As he had not given his name, and no one had had the courage to ask it of him, he soon became known as Le Bossu, which in French means the humpback. If he knew of the stories told about him, or of his unpleasant nickname, nothing in his behavior betrayed the fact. Silent and stern, he went his way through the streets, which became almost deserted at his approach, stopping at such stores in which he wished to make purchases of the necessities for his solitary life, greeting the merchants' evident terror with a scornful sneer and a laconic order. He always paid cash, and never complained about the price, buying the best of everything. Therefore, in spite of their terror, all the merchants of F—— desired and hoped for his patronage.

Though this had been going on for fifteen years, the novelty had not worn off, and each visit of Le Bossu to F—— was the cause of the same ripple of excitement, speculation, and alarm as during the first days. The day our story begins was the most notable day of the year for the inhabitants of F——, since it was the 25th of October, the day on which the hunchback left his retreat for an absence of one month.

On the streets not one child was at play, for timid mothers, hiding behind drawn blinds, feared that some time during one of those mysterious trips the hunchback might wish to kidnap some of the children. Long before the arrival of the train, the men, one by one, found their way to the station, under some pretext or other. They appeared surprised to see each other there, though each knew why the other had come, yet no one wanted to admit that he was given to this womanish curiosity. When the hunchback finally appeared, they would exclaim, with well-feigned surprise:

"Why, if there isn't Le Bossu! I had quite forgotten about his little trip!" or

words that conveyed the same meaning.

As this had been going on for years, no one was the dupe of this subterfuge, not even Le Bossu, who, though he appeared unconscious of the presence of his fellow-citizens, knew full well that it was simply to see him depart that all these men left their work.

With scarcely a look at the curious faces about him, the hunchback purchased his ticket for Toulouse; then, with his hands in his pockets and a cigar in his mouth, he stood on the platform waiting for the train, his eyes fixed vaguely before him in an unseeing stare, in which it seemed as though the soul was lost in a dream, or rather in the contemplation of some scene of the past still living in memory.

The train arrived, and Le Bossu took his place in one of the coaches without casting a look behind or minding the evident stir his appearance in the car had caused by the other travelers. Once seated, he drew his hat down over his eyes, and did not move from this position until Toulouse was reached. Was he asleep or simply thinking? No one could tell. At Toulouse he descended, and without looking either to the right or left made directly for a waiting carriage, where a servant in livery stood waiting.

"Well, Jean," asked Le Bossu, "how is Monsieur Armand this year?"

"As well as usual, Monsieur le Baron. He was so anxious to see you again, that, had it not been for your strict orders, he would have come to meet you in person."

"Very well," and Le Bossu, without another word, entered the carriage which drove rapidly away.

Half an hour later it came to a stop before the perron of the most elegant mansions in the Rue des Nobles, that quarter of Toulouse par excellence, where live the oldest and noblest families of France. Before the servant had time to open the door, Le Bossu had leaped to the ground. The next moment he had joined a young man who stood bareheaded on the steps waiting for him.

"Well, Armand," and there was a slight touch of emotion in the usually cold voice of the mysterious inhabitant of the castle of F——, "we meet again."

"Yes, Monsieur le Baron," answered the young man thus addressed, looking at his visitor with both awe and affection, "and the year which has passed has been unusually long to me. I thought it would never end."

A bitter smile curled Le Bossu's perfect lip, and it was with a touch of tender pity in his voice that he answered, as he led the way into the house: "It is always that for which we most long that brings us the most bitterness."

"What do you mean, monsieur?"

"Nothing. You will soon know. I will go first to my room and change my clothes; then we will have dinner."

"And after that, will you tell me?" eagerly questioned the young man.

Le Bossu passed his hand over his brow, as though to lift from his brain the weight of thought which crushed it; then he answered, "Yes, you shall know all tonight."

Armand de Ravelle did not press the point further, but let Le Bossu go up to his appartment, waiting, thoughtful and moved, for the hunchback's return.

"If Naja told the truth, that man is my father!" mused the young man, as he took a seat by the open grate, in which, owing to the dampness of a rainy forenoon, a bright fire burned. "If this is true, why all this mystery? Why don't I bear his name? Why does he not live with me? I know nothing about him, aside from the fact that the servants call him Baron de Lasouche, that this home is his, that it is his money which supports me! What does he do? Where does he live when away from me? Why does he not own me as his son? Oh, to know, to know! He has promised to tell me all tonight. It is to be my reward for my having graduated with such honors from the College Louis le Grand. Only a few more hours to wait, then I shall know what Naja feared to tell—that awful story of which she spoke, but which she could not relate. He shivered as he stirred the logs in the fireplace. "In spite of my wish to know, I am afraid!" he murmured.

The one who mused thus by the fire must have been some twenty-five years of age. Tall and well built, handsome of face and perfect of form, he had one of those winning personalities which attract and arrest the attention at first sight. As much as Le Bossu was repulsive the younger man was attractive, yet a close study of the two faces revealed the fact, that, with the difference in years taken into consideration, the two men resembled each other to an astonishing degree; but this close comparison few ever made, since instinctively every one shrank from a second look at the hunchback.

The young man was not long left to his musing, for Le Bossu returned shortly, more grotesque, more repulsive than ever, in his faultless evening dress. For a while he stood by the door, contemplating the young man with a look of mingled pity and love, a look which faded the minute Armand, feeling the mysterious attraction of the eyes looking at him, looked up and saw that he was no longer alone.

"Pardon me," he cried, rising confusedly, "I did not know you had descended, Monsieur le Baron."

"Don't excuse yourself, Armand. I had no need to remain long at my toilet; it is one of the advantages of my position," and a bitter laugh completed the thought.

Armand did not answer, for there was nothing to say to that evident cry of bitterness coming from that deformed body, so he silently handed a chair to his companion, who sat down, still looking at the young man as though enjoying the sight of the perfect symmetry of his face and figure.

"Sit down, Armand, and while we wait for dinner tell me about yourself."

"What do you want to know, monsieur?" asked the young man, as he obeyed the order and resumed his seat.

"Everything. Remember I have not seen or heard from you for a year. Much must have happened in those twelve months."

"Not much, monsieur. I studied and worked hard the greater part of the time."

"That I know, and I am proud of the record you have made. It is not, therefore, of the time spent in study that I want an account, but rather that spent in pleasures."

"My pleasures, monsieur, have been few and far between, and aside from an occasional evening at the theater, or a dinner, or a party given by one of the half-dozen families with whom I am on calling terms, I have found most of my recreation in books."

"A remarkable record for a modern young man, who has all the money he cares to spend," remarked Le Bossu, without taking his eyes off Armand's face.

Armand flushed at these words, and rising, stood leaning with his back against the mantel. Then he answered painfully:

"True, I did have all the money I could spend, but I didn't know whose money it was, and whether it was really mine to use."

"So that's the reason why you were so saving?"

Armand nodded, then went on in pleading tones:

"Won't you tell me now? I can wait no longer!"

"I said after dinner, Armand."

The young man dropped back in his chair, conquered by the stern resolution of the voice which answered him; then, with lowered head and disappointed face, he waited in silence. For a time neither spoke; then Le Bossu said aloud, as though following the trend of his thoughts:

"Not a very gay life for a young man!" Then suddenly he asked, "Were you ever in love, Armand?"

Armand looked up, startled by the question, but replied with quiet dignity:

"I might have been, sir, if I had allowed myself to follow the longings of my heart, but that, too, I had to put from me."

"Why?" and Le Bossu looked up in evident surprise.

"Since I could not feel justified in spending money of which I did not know the source no more could I think of offering a woman a name which I did not know was really mine."

"Ah, the name de Ravelle does not satisfy you? You are hard to please, monsieur."

"You misunderstood me, monsieur. What I meant was that I did not know what were my legal rights to it—that is all. Remember, monsieur, that I do not even know who were my parents. Could I, in such ignorance, tell a young girl that I loved her! Yet God is my witness, I did want to at one time. I would today, if I could only be sure it was right. You must now understand why I am so anxious to know the history of my birth, which you have promised to tell me tonight."

An anxious frown had gathered on the baron's brow as the young man spoke, and now that he paused, he asked abruptly:

"Then the one you love is a lady, one you could make your wife?"

"Yes, monsieur."

"Her name?"

Armand hesitated.

"Her name?" ordered Le Bossu a second time, in tones which demanded an immediate answer.

"Lady Antoinette Maintland. She—Why, what's the matter, monsieur?"

Le Bossu had leaped to his feet at the mention of that name, his face suddenly livid, trembling in all his limbs, but the sight of the young man's amazement and alarm recalled him to himself, and with a powerful effort of his will he forced himself to an outward appearance of calm, as he answered:

"Nothing, just a sudden pain in the heart. I am subject to these attacks. It will soon pass," and he walked three or four times about the room, murmuring to himself: "That man's cousin, the sister to the one next in line to the title of Winters. He loves her!"

After a time he resumed his seat, calm in outward appearance. Armand, anxious, asked, "Are you better, monsieur?"

"Yes. Where did you meet her?"

"In Paris, monsieur. She is the sister of one of my best friends, Sir John Maintland, who for two years was my comrade at the College Louis le Grand. His sister, Lady Antoinette, came to visit him during the second winter of his stay, and I saw a great deal of her then."

"It was then you learned to love her?"

"Yes, monsieur; she is so beautiful."

"Have you seen her since?"

"Yes, monsieur, this week. Sir John and she are in Toulouse visiting with a distant relative, the Duchess de Briais, stopping here on their way to Nice, where they go to spend the winter."

"Are they still in Toulouse!" It was evident the hunchback was deeply interested.

"Yes, monsieur."

"Do you know whether their cousin, Lord Winters, is with them?"

"He is not, though I think he is to join them in Nice later. Do you know them, monsieur?"

"Only through hearsay. So you love her? You are sure that you do?"

"Sure, monsieur. Why should you be surprised? Is it not natural for a man to love?"

"Perfectly so. I should have expected something of the sort, but——" and Le Bossu's eyes flashed fire; "this will make no difference in my plans, none whatever!"

Armand opened his mouth to question, but Le Bossu with a gesture of command silenced him, saying:

"Useless to question my meaning—I shall not answer you."

The servant, entering at this moment to announce dinner, made a fit diversion to the strained situation.

CHAPTER II.

THE STORY.

During the dinner neither spoke, for both were lost in their thoughts. They ate rapidly, almost unconsciously. The coming and going of the servants alone gave a touch of life to the gloomy scene, but the two men seated in that sumptuous room at table resplendent with silver and cut glass, were both evidently haunted by the weight of some hidden sorrow or some overpowering anxiety. Armand barely touched what was set before him, his heart being oppressed by a nameless alarm which contracted his throat. As to Le Bossu, he ate ravenously, but it was evident that this was due to the needs of nature rather than from any enjoyment of the viands set before him.

At last the meal came to an end, and the two men, lighting their cigars, passed into the library, after giving the footman orders to admit no one. Then Le Bossu had closed the door and taken a seat in a great armchair, with Armand in another chair in front of him, the young man questioned eagerly, "Well?"

Le Bossu looked for an instant in silent pity on the eager face, then said slowly, between two puffs of smoke:

"I will tell my story, Armand, in my own way, and though, perhaps, you may think I go too far into the past, I wish you to remember that it is the past which makes the future, the past not only of ourselves but of our ancestors as well. So don't be impatient, no matter how prolix I may seem to you, since afterward you will see that the seeming digressions were necessary for the clearness of the rest of the story."

"Just one question, monsieur, before you begin?" pleaded the young man.

"Well?" questioned the Baron, half frowning.

"My mother, monsieur? Is she living?"

"No, she died three months after your birth," darkly answered Le Bossu, as a fierce flash passed though his eyes, like a lurid flame of lightning in a darkened sky.

"Ah!" and the young man fell back in his chair, the eager light dying from his face. "You can tell your story now, monsieur. I can listen patiently no matter how lengthy it may be."

"You were only concerned about your mother, then? How about your father? Have you no interest in him?"

Armand bowed his head as he answered, not daring to look up.

"I know who my father is, monsieur. At least I think I do."

"You know!" and Le Bossu sat up in his seat.

"Yes, monsieur."

"His name?"

"Monsieur le Baron de Lasouche."

"I!" Le Bossu rose, deeply moved. "You know that I am your father?"

"Yes, monsieur, and have known it for the last six years."

"Who told you?"

"My colored nurse Naja, on the night she died!"

"Did she tell you anything else?"

"No, monsieur, and it was that which has poisoned my life, embittering every minute of the day."

Armand rose, and throwing away his cigar, walked twice around the room, returning to the hunchback who had remained motionless in his place.

"Ah, monsieur, the fact that you did not claim me, that name of de Ravelle was some stain upon my birth, and I wore out my heart in doubts and fears and misgivings, until at times I thought I would go mad!"

"Did you doubt your mother's virture?" The words came with a hiss from between the hunchback's set teeth.

The young man did not answer.

"Answer me!" ordered Le Bossu, in tones of stern command.

"What else would you have me think, monsieur. I——"

"Wretch!" and the Baron sprang toward Armand with such a murderous light in his eye that the young man backed from him in terror, but instant the hunchback had re control over his feelings, for seat, he said abruptly listen. You will so sullied by that unhol of the purest woman

"Pardon me, monsieur, young man, "but how was how could I guess?"

"That will do," sternly ord Baron. "Be seated and follow I am going to say."

Armand obeyed, and Le Bossu

"I was born in Bombay, n ago, the only child of the elle and of his English w Davanhoe, daughter of attache to the viceroy a normally constituted ch my twenty-fifth year w and handsome as you."

"Then you were not l way?" broke from Armand ment.

"No; you shall know how I became the grotesque, abno ture I am. Lord Davanhoe di prove of his daughter's ma never forgave her for marrying er, who was, to tell the truth, a wild, penniless younger son at the of that marriage, inheriting both and fortune only after the death of his elder brother, who died without heirs. Lord Davanhoe never saw his daughter after her marriage, therefore he never saw me, the only child of that ill-fated union. My mother died when I was twelve, and my father took to drinking and other debaucheries, until he, too, passed away, leaving me at twenty, alone and almost penniless. I tried to look up my mother's relatives, but was not even received, so, at odds with the world, I decided to lose myself in the interior districts of India, where the whites rarely attempt to penetrate. My knowledge of the Indian language, learned from an old Indian nurse, aided me to make friends with the different tribes, and thus I lived for three years, studying the people, the country, the different languages, hoping from these studies some day to gain fame and fortune by writing a book on these interesting travels from my notes kept faithfully from day to day. Thus did I reach the inland districts of Tibet, where no white man had as yet penetrated.

"I was welcomed as a god, and treated as such, so that I had an excellent chance to study both the people and their customs. They had a strange religion, the worship of an immense kind of spider, specimens of which were kept in temples and guarded by vested virgins, chosen from among the most beautiful [illegible] plan of the tribe. These were the [illegible] another esses of their idolatrous w[illegible]d two priestesses had charge o[illegible] detec-noisome spiders, and gav[illegible] lambs, on whose blood t[illegible] had not al- which the carcass was [illegible] Released altar of the temple, as a s[illegible]she looked god who had already tak[illegible] a life with its blood."

Here Le Bossu pause[illegible] and relit his cigar. A[illegible] speak, but his face clearly [illegible] he was far from understanding [illegible] detailed description of pagan w[illegible] had to do with his own birth an[illegible] mystery of his life. Le Bossu rea[illegible] mute question, and answered it ins[illegible] of resuming his narrative.

"You wonder why I speak so fully o[illegible] that strange religion. It is that you may know in what manner I met your mother."

"My mother! You don't mean that she was——"

"A priestess in one of the temples, yes."

"Then my mother was colored!" broke from Armand, in anguish.

"Your mother was as white as I am."

"Yet you said——"

"That she was a priestess. I repeat it. She had been stolen from her home in India by the frantic natives, who wanted a white princess to preside over the temple of the largest of their gods, the all-powerful Radips. There she had been kept a prisoner for five years, having been kidnaped as a girl of fifteen, being, when I first saw her, a [illegible] beautiful maiden of twenty. She h[illegible] dozen women in wating, and in the [illegible] charge of her duties as priestess had a court and received homage such as few earthly queens enjoy. Needless to say that, in spite of this worship, she was unhappy, and longed for her home, her family, her race."

Armand was listening in breathless emotion, his eyes not leaving the narrator's face. Le Bossu continued:

"In my position of demigod, made for me by the ignorant natives, I was at once conducted to the temple and shown the white idol of ebony. The minute my eyes rested on her face, that [illegible] ud I loved her. It was like the [illegible] New souls who had met before in [illegible] where, a life. It was the divine spe[illegible] of money speaking to the divine sp[illegible] want to go other. It was, in one wor[illegible] cunets. true love at the first sight, the [illegible] soul as well as the sen[illegible] some life complete in the seco[illegible] sir," My feelings were shared b[illegible] was

"Was that my mother's n[illegible]

"The name given her by [illegible] elation. Her real name I will not dis[illegible] hold of for the present, but I give you [illegible] ould of honor it was as noble as min[illegible] being the daughter of a commanding

tioned at the garrison at Delhi."
" pleaded Armand, as his father
breath.
go into the details of my
was an idyl, a dream of
ich words can never paint.
e of worshiping at the
reat Radips, I spent long
the temple, where Nereje
while the others thought I was
I was in reality singing forth
h—a tongue she perfectly un-
the love with which my heart
And after a time she answer-
the same language, and the
became a duet, while the
t the strange words utter-
re the prayers and chants
ouls.
e, as our love increased,
ontentment in this ideal
, rather, the full com-
union of our two des-
we decided to make our
the civilized world, and
by the laws of God and man
es, since our souls were al-
ed. During a terrible storm,
the natives had sought the
their huts in mad terror
ry of the elements, which to
meant the anger of their god, we
our escape, Nerje and I, accom-
nied by the faithful Naja, one of the
women in waiting of the white priestess,
and one who, understanding English,
which in the first lonely hours of her
captivity Nereje had taught her, knew
our secret, yet who, because of her love
for her mistress, had not betrayed us.
and later had risked the anger of her
god and the revenge of her people to fol-
low into the unknown the deserting
priestess and her lover. How we reached
safety without being recaptured I know
not, but the fact is, that three weeks
later we were safely back in Delhi, and
there I made Nereje my wife.

"We then tried to find her father, only
to hear that he had died of grief two
years before, and that his cousin, also an
officer in Delhi, had inherited both title
and fortune. Nereje tried to have him
give back her rights to her, but he had
her driven from his home as an impostor.
It was then that I made the threat that,
even if it took a lifetime, I would prove
my wife's right to the name and fortune
of her dead father. It was that threat
which later caused your mother's death,
and which made me what I am—ungainly
and deformed."

Le Bossu paused and rang a call bell.

"What do you want, father?" asked Armand, addressing the Baron for the first time by that name.

"Brandy, laconically answered the
ck. "I shall have need of the
finish the rest of my story."
ing the servant who an-
l, he ordered the drink,
elapsed into silence.

APTER III.

FIRST VICTIM.

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The Wall Street Nemesis;

Or, A WOMAN'S VENGEANCE

By George T. Hargreaves

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CHAPTER X.

TRICKED BY A DETECTIVE.

CORRA DENNARD, settling herself comfortably into her car seat, opened a copy of a morning paper and turned intuitively to the financial page. Half way down the account of the previous day's market session, she read the following paragraph:

"Some curiosity was aroused by the strength of St. Louis & Southern. The stock has long been dormant, and was believed to have lost all interest for either investor or speculator. But there was active bidding for it throughout the session, and at the close it had recorded a net gain for the day of nearly two full points. Gossip was to the effect that a contest for control had begun between two powerful parties in the street. But the identity of the manipulators was thoroughly concealed."

Corra glanced out of the car window and across the green fields swaying in a light summer breeze. She smiled slightly at this reference to herself. "Two powerful parties" amused her. Yet in an instant to her lips tightened and her hands closed tensely. She seemed to feel anew the large responsibilities of her situation.

Raising a hand to smooth a rebellious wisp of hair from her brow, the paper slipped from her grasp and was wafted down into the aisle. Tod Riker, who had been, intently watching the figure across from him ever since the journey began, darted quickly forward, and seizing the newspaper, extended it toward Corra with a reserved smile. She took it with a nod of thanks.

Riker accepted the opportunity to lean across the aisle and ask above the rattle of the train:

"Pardon me, but I happened to buy my ticket just behind you in the station, and overheard you get one for New London. Do you happen to know a family by the name of Chester there?"

"I am almost entirely unacquainted there," replied Corra, distinctly.

"That so?" said the detective in surprise, yet secretly elated by the chance discovery that the woman he was tracking was going into a strange town, where it would be easier to effect his mission to put her under restraint than if she were about to mingle with friends. "Well, well! You look so much like one of the Chester girls that I thought you must be related to them," and Riker got up confidently and seated himself with amazing assurance beside Miss Dennard.

She looked him squarely in the eye, as if in resentment at his boldness. But before she could return to her paper, he began again:

"You see, the Chester family have always interested me greatly. The father used to be a noted sea captain, but retired when he had amassed a competence, and built him a great, rambling home in New London. Then he invested in stocks, got caught in a panic, and lost all he had. The result was that at sixty he had to go back to the sea for a living. But he was a brave old man, and did it without a whimper. He had two daughters that were just as brave as he was. They looked tremendously like you."

Astonished at the easy assurance of the man, Corra did not know whether to ignore him or laugh at him. She finally looked away and out of the window without replying to him. The movement was unfortunate—for her. For in the moment following, Riker's hand slipped deftly down beside her, opened the handbag which had been lying on the seat, and shoved within it two tightly rolled ten-dollar bills. Cautiously he reclasped the bag and drew his hand up to his chin.

"Yes, tremendously like you," he repeated, with a show of growing interest. "See if they don't. He tucked his hand away in an inside pocket and drew forth a long leather wallet. "I've carried the pictures of them for several years. Kind of like them, you know." He opened the wallet and ostentatiously displaced a part of its contents. There were a few letters, a layer of small bills, and a few business cards. He went through them all with care and deliberation.

"Well, that's strange," he exclaimed, so loudly that Cora looked across at him in surprise. "I had those pictures when I left home this morning, and now they're gone. That's mighty odd, isn't it?" and he looked at her with the faintest expression of suspicion.

"Well, I haven't got them," she said decidedly, "so you needn't look at me in that way."

"Oh, I'm not saying that you have," he replied apologetically, "but it is astonishing how they got away from me, now isn't it?"

He closed his wallet and slipped it into an outer pocket of his coat upon the side where Corra sat.

"You'll have to answer that question yourself, sir," returned she, stiffly. "Moreover," and there was a ring of warning in her voice, "since the train is far from crowded, and you have a full seat of your own, I fail to see why I should share mine with you."

"Oh, please don't be offended," Riker urged. "I didn't mean any harm. I thought maybe we'd be able to kill a little time on our journey. I hope you won't take any offense." He rose in well-feigned embarrassment. "I certainly didn't mean any. A thousand pardons, a thousand pardons!" and he backed away into his own seat.

Corra felt strangely uncomfortable during the rest of the journey. She felt impelled many times to glance across the aisle at the stranger, but she did not dare to do so, because she imagined—and rightly, too—that his eyes were riveted upon her.

Just before the train drew into the station at New London, she became aware that her unusual neighbor was strangely excited. He rose from his seat, felt in all his pockets repeatedly, got down on one knee to look beneath the seat, and then stood up in the aisle to repeat the examination of his pockets.

"Robbed!" she heard him mutter. Then she was conscious that he was looking down harshly upon her. Unobserved, she gathered up her belongings and moved down the car aisle toward the door. He caught up with her as she brushed down the steps to alight.

"I say, lady," he began, brusquely, "you didn't see anything of some money lying about in your seat, did you?"

"No, sir," Corra answered haughtily. "I did not."

With a premonition of something untoward, she hastened down the station platform. But Riker was close after her.

"You're sure about that?" he persisted.

"Now, see here," she turned and addressed him sternly, "if you do not cease this annoyance, I'll have to call official attention to it."

"I guess it'll be me who'll have to call attention to the annoyance," he shot back, meaningly. At the same time Corra saw him beckon to a uniformed police officer.

Angry and irritated, she started forward, but she had proceeded but a few steps when she felt the touch of a harsh hand upon her shoulder. The policeman had stopped her.

"You'll pardon me, madam," he said, "but you'll have to accompany me to the station."

Corra's cheeks flamed as she turned. Her eyes flashed angrily as she beheld the strange man of the train a step behind the policeman with a faint smirk upon his face.

"What for?" she demanded. "Why this insult?"

"This gentleman here," and the blue-coat pointed to Riker, "claims you have picked his pocket."

"Picked his pocket?" exclaimed Corra, stepping back aghast. "It's a lie."

"No, it's not," put in the detective, stepping forward. "I remember that little trick you worked on my pocket when I was sitting beside you. You've got twenty dollars of mine, I'm sure. It couldn't have got anywhere else."

"Oh, it's a shameful lie!" burst out the accused woman. "I never stole a cent in my life." She had to grip herself to keep control of her feelings. Her eyes seemed ready to overflow with tears.

"She's probably got the money tucked away in that handbag of hers right now," volunteered Riker. "Take a look in it and see."

"Yes, look for yourself," and Cora thrust her handbag toward the police-man.

He took it diffidently and opened it clumsily. Then, with a look at her in which she read his belief in her guilt, he drew forth the two tightly rolled ten-dollar bills that the detective had surreptitiously thrust into her receptacle.

Corra felt as if she were about to faint. One hand sought her fevered cheek. The other dropped her grip and clutched the arm of the policeman.

"Oh, it's all a mistake!" she cried brokenly. "You believe me, don't you?"

"Mistake not," put in the detective. "Those are my bills. I'm a careful man, and keep the numbers of them when they come in tens." He drew forth his wallet and consulted a card. "You'll find the numbers on them E1994 and A1291. Look and see now if that isn't right."

The policeman unfolded the bills and read the numbers. They corresponded exactly.

"A clear case, madam," decided the bluecoat. "Now you will go along with me quietly or I will have to put the handcuffs on you?"

"Oh, I'll go with you," she answered, pantingly. Then she fastened her lustrous eyes on her accuser. "So," she hissed. "Paul Kendall's got a tool like you, has he? Well, we'll even this up before we're through with him! See if we don't!"

CHAPTER XI.

THE AUTO CHASE.

At the police station, to which the detective accompanied Corra and the policeman in order to enter his charge against her, she was shown a little more consideration. Her handsome face, her evident good breeding and her visible effort to control herself in an embarrassing position won some sympathy from the man in charge.

Instead of locking her in a cell, he arranged to have her taken before a Police Court Judge at once. Riker protested that he could not spare the time to appear again her so soon, as he had important business to attend to.

"I understood you to say on the train that you were here on a visit to the Chester family," put in Corra.

"That's only part of my business," replied the sleuth, with a flustered stumble in his speech.

"By the way," asked Miss Dennard, turning to the police superior, "do you know a family in town that is named Chester in which there are two handsome daughters, who this man says"— she darted a cutting glance at Riker—"look like me?"

But neither the superior nor the subordinate, although they scratched their heads in the effort to recall such a name, could think of such a family as Corra stated.

"What's more," said the police, "we know just about everybody in town."

"I thought so," declared Miss Dennard. "We'll have the solution of this nasty little trick very shortly, I'm sure."

Before she was required to appear in Police Court, she secured the services of an attorney. To him she imparted her suspicion that Riker had trumped up his charge for the purpose of holding her in duress. Accordingly, the detective was thoroughly surprised when the lawyer, Rafe Everingham by name, rose in court and extending his finger toward Riker, said to the Judge:

"Your honor, I charge this man with conspiracy to deprive Miss Dennard of the liberty of Miss Dennard's person with the purpose that he be taken into custody."

The sleuth with a blaster of bravado drew himself to his full height.

"Nothing to that, Judge; nothing to that, at all," he spluttered. "You can't hold me for anything like that."

"Your honor," insisted the attorney, "the word of this woman is certainly as believable as that of this strange man."

"I'll entertain the charge," decided the Judge. "I don't just like the looks of this affair."

Riker glanced furtively toward the door, as if he would like to make a break for liberty, but an officer quickly reached his side.

The Judge set the hearing for both cases a week ahead. When it came to a question of bond, Corra drew from her purse a draft for five thousand dollars on the banking house of Dorgan & Company, and spread it out for his inspection. He glanced at her quizzically, then announced that she was free to go, on her promise to reappear on the date he had set.

But with Riker it was different. He had no funds with which to furnish a cash bond, and he did not dare to disclose his New York connections, because that would give the lie to the story he had told to Corra on the train. So he was forced to the humiliation of being led away to a cell in the shambling city jail.

But an hour later he had managed to bribe the jailer to permit him to use the telephone. Over a long distance wire he called up his New York headquarters and briefly stated his predicament. Vanker at once set afoot a relief that involved the employment of a New London attorney and resulted hours later in the parole of the detective.

Meanwhile Miss Dennard, [illegible] lowed time to go to waste, [illegible] from the stiffing courtroom, [illegible] up her list of St. Louis & Southern stockholders. There were two prospects here in New London—Philip Maraden with 1,000 shares, and Claudius Heston with 900 shares—both worth while to make a dicker with.

She found Marsden, a retired sea captain, living in a rambling old place that squatted comfortably amid a grove of century-old oaks. To her surprise it was not hard to deal with him, after she had convinced him that she was able to carry through financially any trade settled upon.

Marsden was ready to turn over his thousand shares because he was getting no interest return on his investment. He had bought the stock when he quit the sea ten years before. It was paying six per cent then, and he figured that the income would very comfortably support himself and his growing family. But when the dividends began to be reduced, and then stopped altogether, he was forced to borrow money on his stock in order to live. A hundred times, he explained to Corra, he had been tempted to sell his shares outright, but he was afraid to send them to any New York broker—"they were such tricky fellows"—he was afraid he would get neither stock nor money back. It was different when she brought the money right to him—and, moreover, offered him two dollars a share more than the price ruling in the big city.

A trip to the captain's bank was necessary to complete the dicker. There Corra deposited ten thousand dollars of her New York credit to clinch the bargain, arranging that the balance of the purchase price would be sent on within three days, when the stock was to be delivered to her, the bank meanwhile holding possession.

"You're some woman," said Captain Marsden, as they left the bank together. "Why, you ain't as flustered over handlin' ten thousand dollars as my old wife'd be over handlin' a ten-dollar bill. [illegible] York must be a great place, [illegible] woman kin have sech a heap [illegible] as you've got, and then not [illegible] out and spend it on clothes. [illegible] Eh?"

"Oh, there are other things [illegible] women besides clothes and bonn[illegible] responded Corra, with a smile [illegible] mostly sadness.

Yet she was conscious of some [illegible] as she recalled that she had got [illegible] a thousand shares of S. L. S. that [illegible] not appear among the Stock Exchan[illegible]

LIFE'S MIRROR.

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave,
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

Give love, and love to your heart will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.

For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what you are and do;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.

sales, and that Paul Kendall could secure possession of by no hook or crook.

Hence she turned briskly to the pursuit of the next stockholder—Claudius Heston. Inquiry showed that he lived three miles out of town. He was old, like Marsden, and had made his money in the same way—from the briny sea. But on retiring he had preferred country to city life, and had secluded himself upon broad reaches of rolling Connecticut farm land. He seclected the place; he told his friends with a sardonic grin, because the waving fields of grain reminded him of the swell of the deep.

Corra decided that she would make the journey to the Heston farm in an automobile. She rented a machine from a garage. She could have operated it herself. To drive a car was one of the things Kendall had taught her in their long association, and she found an exultant joy in sending one along a good country road at a fifty-mile-an-hour gait. But here she needed a guide as well as a driver.

While she waited at the garage door until a chauffeur was found, her quick eye noted a familiar figure in a cafe doorway a block away. The figure, she saw, was watching her closely. It was her train companion of the morning.

"Free, eh?" she said to herself. "And aiming to make more trouble for me, I see. Well, let him come on. I'm ready," and her jaws set, and running her fingers about in the depths of her handbag, they closed upon her little revolver.

Her chauffeur proved to be an uncouth youth, who cranked the car like an amateur and turned on the speed as if he was afraid of the result. As the machine swerved about a far corner, Corra watched Riker make a hurried dash for the garage she had just left. She was not surprised, therefore, when a mile out of town she heard a powerful automobile thundering along behind her.

They were descending a rather steep hill that led to a narrow bridge across a meandering stream. Through the cloud of dust thrown out by Corra's car she glanced hastily backward. Dimly she beheld Riker alone at the wheel of a long, lean, sixty-horse-power machine. He was coming down the hill behind them, like a great hungry tiger after its scampering prey. There was the light of anger, of hate in his eyes. He appeared to gloat, as he saw that he was fast overtaking the forward car.

"Turn on all speed," shouted Corra to her driver, "or he'll strike us. He means to, anyway."

The chauffeur, in alarm, turned first to look backward. Corra noticed his face was gray with fear as he beheld the pursuer. With trembling fingers he fumbled with the speed control. Then he wheeled the car close to the edge of the ditch. With an exclamation of chagrin, Corra climbed into the forward seat and grasped the steering wheel out of the driver's hands.

"He means to kill us, that's plain," she hissed, "but we'll not die alone!"

CHAPTER XII.

A FATAL PURSUIT.

Corra Dennard was no mean automobile driver. She had hurtled a powerful car along the Motor Parkway on Long Island at the rate of seventy-five miles an hour. She had spun ordinary touring cars along country roads, where there was no fear of arrest for fast driving until the speed was so high that only two wheels of the machine appeared to be on the ground at the same time. She was able to strip a wheel of a punctured tire and repair it as quickly and deftly as a man. She could regulate motors, grind valves, and adjust controls with the ability of a mechanic.

But all her knowledge had not equipped her with the information necessary to escape disaster in front of a car almost twice as fast and fully twice as powerful as her own. So, for an instant, as she settled herself in the chauffeur's seat, she seemed to see only a blur of green country ahead of her.

But she quickly mastered her nervousness. One hundred yards ahead lay the ramshackle bridge. It was not more than twenty feet wide, and no footway for pedestrians divided its narrow course. Along each side straggled a wooden rail to guard travelers against falling into the muddy, slow-moving current below.

Corra felt that if she escaped being struck by this ponderous car, sweeping down on her from behind, she must act at once and boldly. Her pursuer could not overtake her before she reached the bridge, but he was certain to run her down in the stiff climb up the road that led away from the farther side of the span. Nor was she mistaken in the purpose of Riker. With head bent forward, eyes glaring through the clouds of dust, and fingers tensely pushing the controls to highest speed, he seemed fairly to drag his machine forward toward his prey.

He started his pursuit with anger suffusing his heart. Under the spell of the hurricane speed at which he drove the machine, it had turned to a wildly intoxicating desire to strike this woman who had so neatly balked his despicable strategy, to grind her smaller car into the dust, to behold her crushed and broken in the wreck he knew he could cause. Out of this desire sprang the recollection of the last words of instruction he had received from Vaulker, as he started on this assignment:

"Don't forget, Tod, that if this young woman never comes back, there's two thousand dollars in it for us. And if you turn the trick, three-quarters of that will be for you."

"To turn the trick" looked so easy now as to provoke a sinister grin upon the sleuth's face. Suppose he struck the car ahead and buried this clever woman in the wreckage and suppose she should be dragged out lifeless? Well, he could claim that it was all an accident, couldn't he? That his steering wheel had refused to answer when he tried to avoid hitting the machine in front of him? Or that a bowlder in the roadway diverted the course of his car beyond his control? So, with a thundering roar and amid a cloud of dust that effectually screened him, he drove malevolently forward at breakneck speed.

But Corra was not without resource. She recognized as well as Riker that a blow from his ponderous machine would undoubtedly crush her car and bury her and her chauffeur, maimed and probably dead, in the debris. There was a single avenue of escape, she decided. She must somehow leave the road and allow her pursuer to go thundering on without hitting her. But how?

Within fifty feet of the edge of the bridge the inspiration came to her. It was dangerous, to be sure, almost foolhardy, but it seemed the only way. Moreover she was in a hectic flush of excitement that inspired the rashest of acts.

A single darting glance revealed to her that the bed of the stream was shallow and that its banks were of the softest ooze, partly concealed by clumps of marsh grass. Afterward she recalled that she wondered whether or not the slimy water and the mud at its edge would spoil her gown.

With arms as of steel she held the machine true as it struck the bridge and trembled under the heavy impact. Then, half way across, with a little gasp of apprehension, as she heard the car of Riker not more than fifty feet behind, she jerked the steering wheel.

The auto answered instantly. It swerved sharply to the left and then, with an impetus like that of a bundler, it crashed through the bridge guard rail and hurled itself forward into a cushion of ooze on the farther bank of the stream.

Corra did not lose her self-possession for an instant. She even tried to balance the car as it swept from the bridge that it might not turn turtle. She also thought to turn off the power completely. She remembered, too, to cry to her panic-stricken driver, crumpled in the seat beside her, to hang on for his life.

Then she was conscious of a tremendous jar, as a shower of slime rose about her, and of a pain as from a knife thrust in her left forearm. Her chest struck the wheel with an impact that rendered her breathless. Her eyes, wavering into unconsciousness, received a dull impression of the grotesque figure her chauffeur cut as he was catapulted twenty feet forward into the thin mud. Then she drooped quite helpless backward into her seat.

It crashed through the bridge guard.

Riker, in pursuit, meanwhile had his own troubles. With a gloat in his eye and the half-suppressed cry in his throat of the hound that is only a few bounds from its prey, he jammed on the last atom of power in his car. He was obsessed with a single idea—to strike the light machine ahead of him and literally annihilate it. He did not pause to think what might be his fate in such a desperate maneuver. He only wanted to strike the woman ahead with the most powerful instrument at hand. And that was his sixty-horse-power auto.

As his car bounded down the hill toward the bridge at terrific speed, he was as a man intoxicated. His head felt flighty. The blood tingled through his veins like myriad needles. His jaws set themselves as those of some steel trap upon a puny victim. Maybe it was the outgrowth of the speed mania; maybe it was the animal passion of the man becoming supreme; whatever the animus, there filled him an unconquerable desire to take life.

So he was really half-insane as he shot down upon the bridge, close behind the car of Corra. There the dust that had partly hidden her in the descent of the hill suddenly cleared and gave him a perfect view of his quarry. In that instant he saw the woman's machine quit the middle of the bridge and dive from its side.

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"I went to many doctors and they gave me only temporary relief. So I suffered on, till one day, a woman doctor advised me to drink Postum. She said I looked like I was coffee poisoned.

"So I began to drink Postum, and gained 15 pounds in the first few weeks and am still gaining, but not so fast as at first. My headaches began to leave me after I had used Postum about two weeks—long enough, I expect, to get the coffee poison out of my system.

"Now that a few months have passed since I began to use Postum, I can gladly say that I never knew what a neuralgic headache is like any more, and it was nothing but Postum that relieved me.

"Before I used Postum I never went out alone; I would get bewildered and would not know which way to turn. Now I go alone and my head is as clear as a bell. My brain and nerves are stronger than they have been for years." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

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Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root saved me from Bright's Disease and Dropsy in 1884, after the doctors said I could not possibly live.

Yours very truly,
A. J. BROWN,
99 Pembroke St. Rochester, N. Y.

State of New York } ss.
County of Monroe }

Personally appeared before me, this 21st day of August, 1911, A. J. Brown, who subscribed the above statement and made oath that the same is true in substance and in fact.

NELSON E. SPENCER,
Notary Public.

Letter to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

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Stunned with surprise, one hand left the steering wheel in a gesture of astonishment. The move was fatal. The car, moving at tremendous speed, seemed to feel that it was not under perfect control. There was the slightest wabble of the front wheels, and before Riker could clamp his loose hand down on the wheel again the machine squirmed away from him like a frightened snake.

Once started awry, nothing could stay its erratic flight. With a cry of horror the detective felt the car plunge sideways and then, with a crash through the bridge guard rail, leap like a thing of life from the right side of the span. In the air, the car turned partly on its side and jammed its way into the mud and water on the opposite side of the bridge from that on which Corra had driven from the other side of the bridge. When no cry came from the wreck, he decided intuitively that the daredevil who had driven it must be dead.

He felt like running away from the spot, until he beheld Miss Dennard slowly returning to consciousness. Then he went to her, dashed a cupped handful of water into her face, and stood in mud half way to his knees, as in embarrassment he watched her return to full sensibility.

"Where is he?" was her first inquiry, as with gray-white face she nursed her injured left arm against her breast.

"Over there." The chauffeur pointed without daring to look.

"Wrecked?" she asked, as she leaned down to look beyond the bridge. "My God, yes!" she exclaimed, as she beheld the half-buried car. Let's get to him."

She made her driver carry her to dry footing, and hurried him by the lash of her tongue to the side of the wrecked big car. Gingerly he reached down to grasp a wisp of hair he noticed swaying just below the surface of the water. But he let go with a shudder when he found it belonged to a human head, lifeless and staring-eyed.

"He's drowned!" he whispered in awe to Corra, on the brink of the stream.

"Do you know who he is?" she asked.

"Nope; never saw his face before."

"Dive your hand into his pockets, and see if you can find anything by which to identify him," she directed.

The chauffeur stooped and drew forth a package from the dead man's inner coat pocket. He paused before he passed it over to Corra, in order to look with bulging eyes at the photograph, water-soaked, yet decipherable, which topped the packet.

"Why, if it ain't you!" the man exclaimed, glancing from the picture to Miss Dennard and then back again.

She took the bundle and looked with dazed eyes at the photograph. Astonished for a moment that her picture should have been found under such tragic circumstances, she solved the mystery when she turned it over and beheld on the back, written in her own hand, but with the ink now badly smeared: "To Paul from Corra."

"And to think that he would set a bloodhound like this on me!" she murmured with a sigh. She had little need to look farther for an identification of the automobile's victim. A sort photo his name and connections: "Theodore Riker. Vauker Detective Agency, New York."

"Come," she said, weakly, as she caught the edge of the bridge for support, "my arm pains dreadfully. Try to get me to a hospital."

CHAPTER XIII.

THE PLUNGER'S STRATEGY.

Meantime Paul Kendall, chained in body, had been active in mind. He readily apprehended the purpose of his imprisonment. He was convinced now that Corra Dennard was really his antagonist in a desperate stock market battle, and that, like himself, she was not to halt at the boldest and most unscrupulous measures to effect his defeat.

With ankles and wrists still shackled, he sat on the narrow bed in his little room on the second floor of the Frothingham garage, chin sunk in his hands, and tried to evolve some new expedient for escape from his present dilemma.

Twenty-four hours had passed, he estimated, since his incarceration had begun. He had been decently fed, but the drink had been aggravating. It had been only water. His throat irsted for wine.

His efforts toward freedom had failed. Twice he had proposed bribes to Benson, his chauffeur-jailer, but they had availed naught but gruff refusals. Once he had crawled to the door of his prison room and hammered it with his shackled wrists until it shook, upon its hatchings. But that had only resulted in his being thrown back violently upon the bed and bound there with a strap. Once, too, he had managed to snap the gag loose from his mouth and emit a frenzied call for help. But Benson was close at hand, and he had battered him so relentlessly for the outbreak that he was cowed into silence thereafter.

Most of his thoughts were devoted to his deal in the market. He wondered fretfully whether Corra intended to keep him prisoner until the time limit for the completion of it had expired. That, he admitted, would be a terrible reverse, for it would involve the loss of his fortune and the branding of his name in Wall street with the ignominy of failure.

In his pent-up anger the desire surged through him to be able to fasten his fingers in the throat of Corra Dennard, who appeared to be cleverer than he, and to squeeze the breath out of her. He found himself hoping that Tod Riker would be able to claim the reward he had promised for the permanent disappearance of the woman he had loved. Out of his broken sleep he awoke frequently to find his fingers clenched and his face working in an excess of hate. And through it all the thirst for strong drink possessed him.

His chance came when, in the evening of the second day, a strange guard appeared. Benson, worn out by his long vigil, had appealed to Ted Frothingham for relief, and between them they had impressed into their service a stalwart young chauffeur from a neighboring garage. Buck Tyson was his name, and mighty was his strength. But his countenance was bovish and pleasant, and Kendall, in his ex remity, decided to make an appeal to him.

With signs of pain that the new guard could not mistake, the speculator secured the removal of the gag from his mouth.

"Kid," he whispered, when he was free to speak, "I'm just about dead. I've been strung up this way for twenty-four hours. I don't know what you're getting for your part in this job, but I'll guarantee to double it if you'll only help me to stop some of my pain. See—" and he held up his wrists in the dim light to show where the carking handcuffs had rubbed the flesh raw in spots. "Loosen these blamed things so that I can have a little rest, and I'll gladly give you a ten-spot."

"Quit your 'kidding,'" was the laughing reply. "You haven't got a ten-spot to give."

"Stick your hand in my trouser's pocket and pull out what you find there," returned Kendall, encouraged.

Tyson, with a smirk, did as requested, drawing out a roll of greenbacks large enough to fill even his giant fist.

"Now count them," instructed the plunger.

Tyson gingerly began to peel off the bills. They were all tens, and when he had completed the count, he found there were sixty of them.

"Six hundred dollars," he announced with bulging eyes.

"I'll give you ten of them for ten minutes' rest from these bracelets," Kendall tempted.

The guardsman looked warily around. Then his eyes went back to the roll of bills in his hand.

"But I can't," he said, half-regretfully. "I haven't got the key."

"Get a file downstairs then, and file them apart," suggested the Wall street man.

"Then they'd know I'd helped to let you loose," Tyson returned.

"No, they wouldn't," argued the prisoner. "I'll tell 'em I broke them loose myself."

"Oh, you know well enough they wouldn't believe that stall," scoffed the chauffeur.

"How much are you getting for your part in this little drama?" inquired Kendall, artlessly.

"Twenty dollars," returned Tyson, promptly.

"And you'll turn down an offer of a hundred dollars when you can earn it in ten minutes? Come, kid, don't be foolish now," exhorted the prisoner.

"Well, then, it's only for ten minutes," the young man assented.

"Only for ten minutes," agreed Kendall, "and you can count out your pay right now."

"Oh, I ain't afraid of not getting that," grinned the chauffeur, thrusting the roll of bills deep into his own pocket. "I'm going to be your banker for a while."

For the first time since he had been caught, Paul allowed himself the luxury of a smile, as his guard descended the stairs of the garage in search of a file. He returned with two, but set to work diffidently upon the handcuffs.

"Say," he said, looking up uncertainly at Kendall, "this is going to get me in mighty bad with these folks," and he nodded toward the house.

"You can afford to get in mighty bad, kid," encouraged the plunger. "I'll make your pay two hundred instead of one hundred dollars."

Whereupon Tyson set to work more diligently. It required ten minutes of active work, however, to wrench the handcuffs apart. With a groan Kendall stretched out his freed arms.

"Say, but that feels better," he panted. "Another hour of those would have just about driven me nutty."

Tyson drew out his watch and marked the time.

"Ten minutes to eight," he announced. "At eight o'clock I've got to get you back into these somehow."

"That's no odds," spurned the prisoner. "I'll show you a trick about them when the time's up."

He eyed the chauffeur closely for a moment. Then he proposed:

"Kid, I'm just about dying for a drink of brandy. You don't know what it is to be tied up this way for twenty-four hours when you're used to a drink about every half-hour. I tell you it's about as bad as hell. Be a good fellow, now, and help me to a swallow."

Tyson looked up inquiringly.

"Oh, it's easy. Run out and buy me a bottle of Cognac, and when you come back with it I'll be glad to give you the whole roll you're carrying."

"You're joking," blurted the guard incredulously.

"I'm in deadly earnest," insisted Kendall. "Listen, boy; six hundred dollars for a drink. You'll never have the chance again to pick up money so easily."

"Six hundred bucks. Wow!" exclaimed Tyson. "You're something of a tempter."

"Well, hustle along now," urged the prisoner, "or my ten minutes of freedom will be up."

And you'll agree not to make any getaway while I'm gone?" dickered the tempted man.

"How can I get away with these bracelets on my ankles?" scoffed Kendall. "Get along with you, now."

And Tyson with the six hundred dollars burning in his pocket, locked the door behind him and scooted down the garage stairway and away in search of a bottle of brandy.

As he heard the outer door of the building close, Kendall sprang into feverish action. He grabbed up the larger of the two files Tyson had brought from the tool-room below, and set to work to rasp the steel anklets loose. It was no easy task. The file grated the skin of his delicate fingers until here and there a thin drop of blood exuded. His wrists, made raw by the chafing of the handcuffs, burned and smarted sharply. His head, bent low over his work, swam sickeningly.

But he toiled with desperate energy. Once he halted as he thought he heard Tyson's returning footsteps, then set to work more vigorously, cursing himself

(Continued on page twenty-five.)

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Or, THE MYSTIC PROFILE

By EDYTH KIRKWOOD

"Let me try what I can do."

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No. 5, February 3. Subscrip- h begin with that issue, or es can be obtained from news ur agents or by mail from the publication.

CHAPTER XVIII.

I have found, is ugly riddle, a good sign."

IN THE "white chamber" over at Wolverton's the light fell softly on a curious scene. The snowy draperies of velvet and silver gave a strange impression of silence, a solemn hush such as occurs after a deep storm in mid-

nter of the apartment was a ed with a white cloth on a large globe of purest crys- unlight entered freely, danc- descent gleams across the casting a beam athwart the on which was depicted the

people were in the room. efore the table was Ellyn yes were fixed on the crystal dark hair was pushed back eautiful face, which looked rigid in the hypnotic trance. you see?" asked Mr. Wolver-

moved, but no sound was looked wrapt, intent, as ling. "What do you hear?" r. Allison, with authority. of the sea," she answered, The waves lashing against

the rocks," he said "and waves. What next?" and an island. The inlet is highest bowlders, narrow ettled; but the water there is land?" queried Tom. thick blue mist. I cannot

gh the mist." al clouds. I cannot see." drooped suddenly and rested

ted!" cried Christine forward to her aid. ments are fatal to health." thing," said Tom Allison. oked a trifle pale. "She will diately."

ght. In a moment she was vidently had no recollection had seen in her trance. factory?" she asked, with

her, though you have helped ," said Alan Emery. "Allow you for your efforts in my believe you have materially e of our seamen about here ssibility of an inlet beyond the circle of rocks on which stand the ruins of the lighthouse."

"No," agreed Mr. Wolverton. "The circle is supposed to be impenetrable."

"Let me try what I can do," said Romaine, coming forward from beyond.

"Try what?" said Dr. Bolton as he entered. "They told me you were up here, and I said I would join you," he added, turning to Mr. Wolverton, who welcomed him cordially. "But what was Romaine going to try?"

"My skill," she replied. "I am very successful in crystal gazing."

"Fudge!" said the doctor. "Stuff! Nonsense! Why do you want to use up your nerve force in such exhausting practices?"

"You forget," said Romaine, quietly. "It comes natural to me. I am like that girl in the story, who could handle the poison flower with impunity because they had been brought up together. Magic and I are old friends."

Mr. Wolverton winced.

Dr. Bolton frowned and shrugged his shoulders. Crossing over to where Mr. Wolverton was standing, he said a few words in a low tone.

The reply was equally low, but Romaine, guessing that she was about to be forbidden, did not wait for interdiction. She was already kneeling before the crystal, gazing steadily into its pellucid depths.

"Have you passed through the inlet?" asked Tom Allison. "Yes, but the mist is thick. I see a few steps ascending. Shall I go up?"

"Yes; go."

They waited in silence; but not long. Romaine's face expressed wonder and awe.

"Beautiful!" she exclaimed. "Indescribable!"

"But tell us more. What is beautiful? What is indescribable?" demanded Tom eagerly.

"I cannot tell," she murmured, ecstatically. "It is like a great dome, but the top is open to the sky. The sun shines through on a lonely lake. Glittering stalactites hang everywhere about, and by the borders of the lake there stands a pretty cottage."

"Are there people there?"

"Yes, two ladies. One is tall and dark. She is dressed in a combination of brown and light and dark brown—that scarcely shows against the walls of the inclosure, as the colors are the same. The other one has on a blue gown. She is young and very fair."

"Do they seem friendly?" asked Tom, anxiously.

Romaine did not answer at once. She seemed to be watching and weighing. After a while she frowned and shivered.

"No," she said, sadly; "they are at variance. The young lady pleads, the older one is evidently refusing something that she wishes. There is a strange looking old woman coming and going about the place. One of her shoulders is higher than the other, and her face has a sinister cast. She seems to be watching something that is lying on the floor of the cave."

"What is it?"

Romaine looked puzzled.

"I—don't know," she replied. "It is like a huge vegetable—a citron or pumpkin of mammoth size. But it is moving as though it were alive; struggling, writhing—as though pulling at a chain."

An exclamation of wonder broke from the others.

"Try," said Tom, earnestly. "Try to tell us what it is."

"I cannot," returned Romaine, helplessly, "for I do not know. I don't think it is anything alive, though it is certainly moving."

"It is very strange," continued Romaine, after a moment's silence, "but they seem to know that I am observing them—one of them, at least. She is looking directly into my eyes. She waves her hand. I—am—afraid——"

Mr. Wolverton and Dr. Bolton stepped forward.

Mr. Allison was in an agony of impatience. Romaine seemed at the very point of success, and yet she was about to fail.

"Everything is growing blurred—misty. The cave has vanished. I see only the lighthouse, and off to one side, very faint and far away, a shadowy island with a hut and one tree."

"Try to reach the hut," said Tom, quickly.

"I have reached it. The door stands open; but there is little to see. It is merely a shelter. I am so tired!"

"That will do then," said Tom, throwing a cloth over the crystal and arousing the girl from her trance.

She looked up brightly, albeit she was pale.

"Did I find what you wanted?" she asked.

"Yes," said Tom, quietly, "and we thank you. Tomorrow," he continued, turning to Mr. Emery, "we shall begin the search."

"Why not today?" asked Mr. Emery, with frenzied impatience.

"Today, if you like," said Tom promptly. "I am ready."

"Then now, now, now—let us be off!"

"Wait. We must organize a little. How many of us are to go?"

"We four men," said Mr. Wolverton. "Every one of us. We shall need all our forces if we are not to be outwitted again. Are you free today, Dr. Bolton?"

"Comparatively so, yes. I have seen most of my patients, and the others can wait. Let me advise a basket of luncheon, in case of some unexpected delay, and a few shawls and rugs."

"How about arms—weapons?"

"They will not be needed," said Mr. Wolverton, nervously. Tom Allison turned toward Mr. Emery, and by a quick glance showed him a revolver in an inner pocket.

The other nodded silently and this little byplay was unnoticed.

CHAPTER XIX.

"Mystic was the life she led;
Picking herbs in secret nooks—
Finding, as the people said,
'Tongues in trees and books in brooks.'"

An hour or two later, Mr. Wolverton's steam yacht was gliding swiftly toward the lighthouse.

The sea, smooth as glass beyond, grew rough and angry as they approached, and what with shoals and intervening rapids, they were compelled to have a small boat lowered, and trust themselves to cross to the inlet by dint of rowing, paddling, or pushing. The inlet itself which gave entrance to the interior of the island, was extremely swift, and at first they despaired of getting through. Then, all at once, they succeeded.

"At last!" exclaimed Mr. Emery. "We are in at last. Now may the fates be kind!"

The others were too absorbed in gazing about them to reply, and the place justified their interest.

Almost perfectly circular, with jagged rocks of various hues from delicate rose to dullest gray, it was as though they lay in the heart of a huge yet exquisite shell. Anxious though they were and important to push on, they paused, one and all, to admire the wondrous beauty of the spot.

But only for a moment. At the farther end the waves lapped gently against a flight of steps roughly hewn in the rock. They landed, made fast the boat, and ascended.

If the entrance was beautiful, what words can describe the interior? It was a large cave, glittering with stalactites, dazzlingly splendid under the dancing sunlight.

For the dome-shaped roof was open at the top, open to the sky, the intense blue of which was reflected in the pool that lay in the center. On one side was a neat construction, too dainty to be called a hut, yet not pretentious enough for the term cottage. It contained several rooms and appeared to be under the care of a weird-looking wom-

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an who was stooping before a basket of freshly washed linen.

She turned a forbidding face as Mr. Wolverton addressed her, and shook her head as though she was too deaf to hear.

Dr. Bolton at once perceived that she was feigning.

"My good woman," he said, curtly, "we have neither time nor inclination for nonsense. We are looking for Mrs. Alan Emery."

"She is not here," replied the hag.

"Where is she?"

The old woman laughed a cracked, cackling, rattling laugh, but her merriment was genuine and hearty, and struck the seekers with dismay.

"Where is she?" repeated Mr. Emery, faintly. "Where is my wife?"

"Where you cannot follow," sneered the woman.

"Explain yourself!" he cried. "What can you mean? Is she dead?"

"No."

"Then what on earth can you mean?"

"Just what I say. She is where you cannot follow."

"Can I speak with her?"

"Dear sakes, no! She is too far off."

"Can I see her?"

"I don't know if she is still within sight." As she spoke, she gazed up through the dome into the sky.

The gentlemen looked at each other significantly. "She is crazy," their glances implied.

"Wait a minute," she continued, "I'll go and find out if we can see them yet."

She stepped to the opening of the cave and looked up. The others followed and did likewise.

"Yonder—yonder!" exclaimed the hag. "See! yonder speck!"

"An airship! A balloon!" exclaimed Tom Allison. "What murderous freak is this?"

Mr. Wolverton smote his breat in misery. Dr. Bolton and Mr. Emery were speechless with horror.

"Wait," said the practical Tom. "And idea occurs to me." Then, turning to the old woman, who was chuckling with delight over their dismay, he demanded: "Is this a frequent pastime with these ladies?"

"Oh, yes," she answered, calmly.

"Ah! indeed. Then who manages the ascent?"

"I do," said the dame, proudly, "when there is no one else. There isn't much to do."

"How do you get them down?" he queried significantly. "It is a captive balloon, of course, with a rope attached; but it must take prodigious strength.

"The machinery is perfect," replied the woman, "a new sort. A child could work it."

"I'm fond of machinery," said Tom, musingly, as though speaking to himself. "I would like to see anything new in the airship line."

"Then you have come to the wrong place," she answered, snappishly. "You will see nothing here."

Turning back, she went into the cave and shut herself up in the cottage.

"We are foiled again," said Mr. Emery, hopelessly. "I begin to think that to seek my wife is only to endanger her."

Mr. Allison bit his mustache with an absent air. He was pondering. Presently he drew Mr. Wolverton aside.

"There is absolutely nothing to be done," he said. "To seize the apparatus and force a descent might cause some horrible disaster. We can only wait for a better chance. Don't you think it would be best to try to find the island off to the left—the island with the single tree?"

"If you like," replied Mr. Wolverton, listlessly. He looked haggard and tired.

The others weer more alert. The old woman, now that she was about to get rid of them, emerged, and showed herself more amiable. She pointed out the beauties of the cave which they had been too absorbed to observe. She even grew confidential and offered to show them an easier way to get out, for which they were duly grateful.

As they pushed off to regain the yacht, the tinkle of a bell was heard and the creaking of machinery.

"Look up! Look up!" exclaimed Dr. Bolton. "The balloon is coming down!"

CHAPTER XX.

"From evil and forbidden things
Some good she thinks to win,
And to the last analysis
Experiments with sin."

High, high up above the earth, Caryl Emery cowered in deadly fear. Crouched on the floor of the car, she gave herself up to despair.

Delphine did not maltreat her in the sense of being rude or violent; she merely made it apparent that she meant to keep her from her husband.

The outlook from the airship was superb and wondrously varied. Clouds were banked one upon another, rounded, peaked, in chains like mountains, or spread evenly like snow. The sun's rays, lying over these humid masses, caused them to assume the lovellest hues imaginable. Pink blended into rose and changed again to purest white. Rifts and partings gave rise to new effects. The air was now icy, now balmy. A puff of wind in this direction or that sent the clouds scurrying and brought about the most unexpected, astonishing changes in an instant of time. Sounds arose with curious distinctness. A bird's whistle, the rumble of wheels, the shouting of men below, reached them as though nearby. Words, even, could be distinguished.

Delphine Wolverton had adjusted a powerful field glass and was watching events below. As she saw the group gathered at the entrance of the cave gazing up helplessly at the floating balloon, a cruel smile played over her beautiful lips.

"Here," she said to Caryl. "Rouse yourself. Take these glasses and look down yonder, if you want to see your husband.

"Don't you recognize him?" she went on, as the girl, forgetting her fear, seized the glasses and looked eagerly down.

Ah! with what rapture she beheld her heart's love, from whom she had been torn by the pitiless woman beside her. His face, so clear cut and fair, was raised as though to meet her own. Their eyes met for one instant, and he was too far away to know it, though some subtle influence thrilled his heart and made him answer with a smile—a sad, wan smile; but it satisfied her.

She returned the glasses with a gentle word of thanks, and resumed her seat on the cushion, and the keen-eyed Delphine saw in her some indefinable change. Her fear had vanished. A sweet resignation shone in the placid face.

"Well, do you find Mr. Emery altered?" querled Delphine.

"I would rather not talk about it," replied Caryl, quickly. "You do not seem to understand what pain you are inflicting. At least, you will respect my desire not to discuss my private affairs with you."

Delphine laughed again—a hollow, mirthless laugh—but caught her breath suddenly and pressed her hand to her side.

"Are you ill?" asked Caryl, with an effort. "Is there anything that I can do?"

"Ill? Not in the least. It was only a pang— a 'stitch' in the side. I laughed too hard."

"If you won't allow me to return to my husband," said Caryl, returning to the subject, "may I not go home to my mother? You say your motive in detaining me is anger against Mr. Emery for separating you from your daughter. Do you never think of my dear mother's anguish, or of the sick longing I have to lay my head on her bosom? Have you no pity for any one but yourself?"

"None," replied Delphine, coolly. "I never give a thought to your mother, and your own grief is perfectly indifferent to me. I am, I admit it, a totally heartless. I have never cared for anything or any one but my child. It is an affair of temperament. The ardor of my nature is concentrated on that one affection, and hence my insatiable desire for revenge on the lawyer who parted us."

It was on Caryl's lips to say that but for Delphine's own folly the parting need never have been; but she was generous even to her enemy, and she refrained.

Meanwhile the wind had arisen, and the balloon was tugging at its rope, swaying, as the currents crossed, with a motion like a ship in an angry sea.

Caryl felt sick and dizzy, but her companion looked as though she enjoyed it.

Then came a flash of lightning followed by a booming reverberation—a violent storm was coming up. Delphine gave the signal for descent, but though a few jerks were felt, there was no downward motion—nothing but the swaying and pull. After that—it was an awful moment—there was a creaking sound and a snap. The rope had broken.

Lightly, buoyantly, the airship floated off as though glad to be free; higher and high it rose; on and still on it drifted.

The subliminity of the storm was lost on the two who were crouching side by side in the car. Little they reckoned of the yellow flashes over the purple clouds, or of the strange glimpses of the world down yonder, with its fantastic lights and weirdly mournful sounds. The shrieking of a passing train mingled for an instant with the whistling wind and rolling thunder.

The afternoon waned. Evening was approaching. Delphine for once was caught. Relying confidently on the safety of the apparatus, she had made no provision for an accident. They had, fortunately, a well-stocked lunch basket, but they were too frightened to be capable of touching food. Unaccustomed to being thwarted, Delphine fretted and chafed until exhausted.

"What will become of us?" asked Caryl, in an awed tone, after some hours had passed.

"I don't know," replied Delphine, curtly.

"But what happens when balloons go up without ropes?"

"Oh, they come down again," said Delphine, vaguely; "but if they happen to drop in front of an express train, or in mid-ocean, or to catch on a telegraph wire, it is not usually an agreeable moment for the passengers."

Caryl shuddered. "Horrible!" she exclaimed. "And can we really do nothing."

"Nothing whatever." And Delphine settled herself philosophically to abide events.

The storm raged and in due time ceased, as they drifted on. Night was falling. The air grew icy cold. The moon shone brightly among the heavy black clouds, gilding and coloring them with rainbow lines of most transcendent

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beauty. Faintly the stars glimmered above, and on, on they went.

Hunger overcame fear; they ate the food and drank the water which Delphine had provided; then, each wrapping a heavy shawl about her, they lay down to rest.

Long, long into the night Caryl lay staring at the sky, scarcely ever giving a glance to the world below, where the artificial lights made a shining mist, while ever and anon a flashing streak of flame announced the passing of a railway train and the shrill whistle seemed to shriek in her ears. The wind had veered to another direction, and the balloon, so it seemed to her, was circling back to its starting point or thereabouts. She grew too weary to care, and at last sank into a heavy sleep. When she awoke she was still afloat, though at a lower plane. The sun was rising. Caryl sat up and looked about her.

To her unspeakable horror, she perceived that she was alone.

CHAPTER XXI.

"Prison roof shall break one day
And Heaven beam overhead."

Caryl's first thought was that Delphine had fallen out of the balloon. Her blood froze with horror at the idea, and for some time she sat as one stunned.

When the immediate shock passed off, she began to reject the supposition of an accident, for there were indications that she had been deliberately deserted by her wily and cruel companion.

How had it been accomplished?

Caryl sat up and looked carefully about her. The anchor was missing. The balloon was hovering uncertainly, now diving down, now starting suddenly up. It was not impossible to imagine that, if they had passed along a hillside, Delphine might have managed to throw out the anchor, and profiting by some neighboring crag or friendly tree, have effected a landing. Then she had cut the rope and set the balloon free to carry her victim where it would. This surmise was, in fact, correct. As was afterward ascertained, it was exactly what Delphine had done.

As the conviction fastened itself on her mind, Caryl gave herself up to despair. Her situation seemed hopeless. She had nothing to eat or drink, and even if she landed safely, she had no money, and who would credit her story?

Fate was about to take her in hand by playing one of those singular tricks which seem too fantastic for belief.

A current in the wind took the balloon briskly along with it. Miles of open country gave place to a city, which was rapidly and safely crossed, though the church spires and tall chimneys of the factories seemed dangerously near.

The outskirts were reached, and it became apparent that the gas was almost exhausted, the airship was descending. Down, down it went. By some instinct Caryl sprang up and clung to the sides of the rigging, and so avoided the shock of the landing.

But judge of her dismay when she beheld about her the familiar sights of the Luxembourg garden, and perceived that she had been deposited again within the walls of her prison. She drew the shawl about her face, sprang out, and slipped behind some shrubbery before any one arrived.

The porter was the first to see the balloon, and ran to spread the news. In a moment the garden was crowded with the doctors, nurses, and patients, all eager to examine the limp object which was feebly fluttering, but unequal to another ascent without inflation.

The name and island address of Delphine Wolverton were found on the inside of the car. Much comment was made on the fact that the passengers were missing and the absence of the anchor was also observed. It was decided that the porter should put the balloon in a place of safety until Mrs. Wolverton could be notified.

Rosalie Lynn, returning to the house by herself, heard some one softly call her name.

She stopped.

"Who called me?"

"Hush! don't betray me. It is I, Caryl Emery."

"Where are you?"

"Here in the clump of shrubbery. I will explain later. I am fainting for food and so tired."

Miss Lynn looked about her.

"Quick, then," she said, "while they are all occupied. Come with me to my room. No one enters it without my permission. You will be safe."

Caryl obeyed. In a few moments she was lying luxuriously on a soft lounge, and as though by magic the deft nurse prepared a dainty broth, which revived Caryl so that she was soon able to relate her adventures.

These, accustomed as was Miss Lynn to the most extravagant narrations, astounded her. Had it not been for the balloon in the garden and for Caryl's otherwise unaccountable return, she might not have credited the tale. But she could not deny the evidence of her own senses, and she was forced to accept the facts.

"And you know absolutely nothing about Mrs. Wolverton?"

"Nothing."

"Do you suppose she is injured or possibly killed?"

"No, I don't think so. She has some mortal malady—heart disease or consumption—I don't know what ails her; but unless the exposure or shock of descent has aggravated her complaint, I do not think she has come to any harm. She is very cautious."

"Her life seems to be spent in making others unhappy, in devising mischief," said Rosalie, thoughtfully, "yet we have no right to wish her ill."

"Nor do we," said Caryl; "but though I may even be sorry for her, I do feel that I must end this complication. I am wearying for my mother and my husband—oh! I saw his face for a moment through a telescope, and he is changed almost beyond recognition—so careworn and haggard—my heart aches for him. Can't you get me away soon—take me to my mother?"

Rosalie Lynn reflected.

"My dear child," she said, at last, "you know how extremely difficult it is to pass the gates. Out of consideration for Romaine Wolverton, all concerned are anxious to spare her mother, and for Mr. Emery to claim you would make a sensation. The newspapers would be full of it, and it would be very painful and annoying to the Wolvertons. Mr. Allison—you remember Tom?—may suggest something."

"Then I must wait?" Caryl's voice was full of tears.

"Not long, dearest. Mr. Allison comes here occasionally, at Dr. Grey's request to play to the convalescents. He is due today. He may be here now. Shall I go and inquire?"

"Oh, yes! Please do. I am so impatient to end it—I must get home."

"I shall, and soon. But you will help very much by being patient. Lie still and try to sleep while we do the planning."

Rosalie found Tom Allison staring at the balloon with the others. Something in his perplexed expression, an anxious look in his eyes, made her instantly believe—absurd though the idea appeared—that he had some knowledge of the events which Caryl had just been narrating.

She drew him aside and questioned him. He told her all he knew, and listened to her hurried sketch of Caryl's story.

"She is exhausted, hysterical, and simply frantic to get away, ended Rosalie. "Now what shall we do?"

"Why not make a dash for it now," he said. "They are all absorbed in wonder over the balloon, and the porter is going to help the other men to put it away. If you tell him you are going out with a convalescent, he will not be likely to scrutinize your 'pass' as closely as usual, and will let us through. I will go with you."

"We can try it, at least," agreed Rosalie, after a moment's reflection.

Caryl was eager to be off. She dressed herself with feverish haste, and could hardly restrain her impatient longing to run; her face burned, her limbs trembled, but she did her best to control her emotion.

It was just as Tom Allison predicted. The porter glanced at the pass with a muttered, "Of course it's all right as it's you, Miss Lynn," and the three went through the gates.

Caryl was free. Half an hour later she was in her mother's arms.

Rosalie returned to the sanitarium and resumed her duties before she was missed, while Tom Allison took the express train and hastened to notify Alan Emery.

This dramatic story will be concluded in the next issue of the Ledger. Read it. If you are not already a subscriber for this paper, it will repay you if you send in a year's subscription. It only costs $1.00; and you will never regret it. Let us hear from you at once.

His Business.

"And did your father discover that I had stolen your heart, dear?" said the young man.

"Why, of course he did," replied the maid.

"How? Did you tell him?"

"No; I didn't have to tell him. It's his business to find out things that are stolen. He's a detective."

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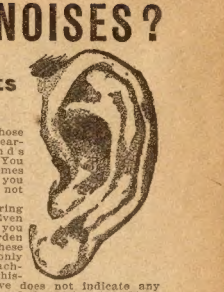

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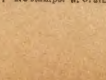

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If a man's hope of a future life misses fire he has no kick coming.

If a man's mind is fully occupied he has no time to be miserable.

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Are you there when it comes to making the best of the worst of it?

An ounce of flattery goes farther with a woman than a pound of pity.

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Many a man in search of a job ought to stay at home and send his wife.

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Most women seem to think that they can settle perplexing questions by crying over them.

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It's a sign that a woman is happily married if she feels sorry for the country because her husband isn't president of it.

ANECDOTES OF PEOPLE

The Third Party.

In a little sequestered country town, where the court of justice is over the general store, and where the Judge is an old, grizzled farmer, thoroughly familiar with pitching hay and milking cows, but having a very limited knowledge of the law, the prisoner had pleaded "Not guilty" to a charge of burglary. The lawyer for the prosecution was endeavoring to show the Court that was accused was a man of low character.

"What were you doing the night before the robbery?" he questioned severely.

"I was playin' penuchle with Jed Parker and another fellow," answered the prisoner evasively.

"Ah, I thought so," shouted the lawyer triumphantly. "Playing cards, and with that loafer Jed Parker! Gambling and in bad company! But you mention a third party, sir. Who was the other good-for-nothing."

The prisoner hesitated.

"Answer me!" bellowed the lawyer.

"Wa-al, sir, if ye must know," said the accused, "it was the Judge here."

A Real Echo.

"Hoot, mon," said Christie MacDonald, in "The Spring Maid," "we've got fine echoes in Scotland, but they canna beat your American liars. An American and a Highlander were walking one day on the top of one of the Scotch mountains. The Scotchman, wishing to impress the visitor, produced a famous echo to be heard in that place. When the echo returned clearly after nearly four minutes the proud Scotchman, turning to the Yankee, exclaimed:

"'There, mon, ye canna show anything like that in your country.'

"To which the other replied: 'I guess we can better that. Why, in my camp in the Rockies, when I go to bed I just lean out of the window and call out, 'Time to get up; wake up!' and eight hours afterward the echo comes back and wakes me.'"

The Wrong Jeffs.

Two fishermen named Jeffs, living near each other, had met with misfortune, one having lost his wife and the other his boat. A lady visitor called on the one who had lost his boat, thinking it was the one who had lost his wife, and the following conversation ensued:

"Good morning, Mr. Jeffs, I am sorry to hear of your sad loss."

"Oh, it ain't of much consequence, mum; she warn't up to much."

"Dear me, you don't say so!"

"Ay, she was a rickety old crock. When I went out with her I was always in danger of my life."

"Indeed!"

"I offered her to my mate only last week, but he wouldn't have her; but I have had my eye on another for some time now, and—"

But the lady could stand no more of the old man's innocent denunciation of the weaker sex, and hurriedly took her departure.

Asking Too Much.

An old negro preacher did the honors, and the candidate for baptism was a coal-black negro woman. The preacher led his victim far out in the stream where she could be thoroughly immersed, and at the auspicious moment he cried, in a loud voice:

"Be stiddy, sistah, be stiddy, an' you'll come up whitah dan snow."

"Oh, parson," she exclaimed, "dat's askin' too much; a cream color'll do!"

Avoiding Trouble.

It was a prohibition State. As soon as the train pulled up a seedy little man with a covered basket on his arm hurried to the open windows of the smokers and exhibited a quart bottle filled with a brown liquid.

"Want to buy some nice cold tea?" he asked with a suspicious wink.

Two thirsty-looking cattlemen brightened visibly, and each paid a dollar for a bottle.

"Wait till you get out o' the station before you take a drink," he cautioned them; "I don't want to get into trouble."

He had three other customers before the train left, and he cautioned each the same.

"You seem to be doing a pretty good business," remarked a man who had watched it all, "but I don't see why you run any more risk if they took a drink before the train started."

"You don't hey? Well, what them bottles had in 'em was real cold tea."

Usefulness of Cold Storage.

"What's the idea of keeping your playing cards in the refrigerator?"

"It's a little precaution the boys agreed on," replied Three Finger Sam. "Some pretty queer hands were played, so we kept changing the pack, and if any stray cards get into the deal we can recognize 'em by the temperature."

Willie's Duties.

The Salina Journal notes that punctuation is very important at times. See what the lack of a period made of this little Beloit boy's excuse: "Dear Teacher —Please excuse Willie for being absent yesterday he had to stay at home and help wash his mother."

WANT ADS

Want and Classified Advertising not less than 14 words accepted for insertion in the Ledger and Blade at 25 cents per word.

FARMS FOR SALE

FOR SALE—10½ acres orchard farm, 500 Alberta peach trees bearing this year; located ½ mile from Netches, Texas. Cash bargain. Charles F. Funk, 27 West Illinois St., Chicago.

FRUIT LANDS—Beautiful Kootenay Valley, B. C., 88 acres, subdivided into 2 4-acre tracts, 11 of 5-acres and one of 23 acres. The 23-acre tract is improved, has dwelling, stable, ice-house, etc. All for a limited time at the low price of $6,000. Adjoining land held at $200 per acre. Will case you nothing to write and investigate. Owner forced to realize thereon. ¼ cash, balance easy terms. Only six hours from Spokane, Wash. Pure water, ideal climate and low taxes. Address D. B. Dulmage, Morgan Park, Illinois.

CHOICE VIRGINIA FARMS—Along the C. & O. R'y; as low as $15 per acre; abundant rainfall; rich soil; mild winters; nearby eastern markets. Fertile 10-acre adjoining farms, $275; $20 acres, $500. Write today for our illustrated booklet, "Country life in Virginia." 134 pages, and low excursion rates. Address K. T. Crawley, Industrial Agent, C. & O. Ry., Room 97, Richmond, Va.

FERTILE Virginia Farms—$15 per acre and up; easy payments, productive soil, close markets, good roads, schools; write for our beautiful descriptive literature and low excursion rates. F. H. LaBaume, Agricultural Agent, Norfolk & Western Railway, Box 404Z, Roanoke, Virginia.

MISCELLANEOUS

$10 Cash paid per 1,000 for Canceled Postage Stamps. Send 10c for price list paid. A. Scott, Cohoes, N.Y.

FOR SALE—Erickson hot air pumping engine with pump and pipe, $60. J. L. Lucas & Son, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

FREE—Whiskey formula 2c. Books, photos, etc.; gentlemen like. Ord Co., Long Beach, California.

$7.75 Paid for rare date 1853 quarters; $20 for a 1¼. Keep all money dated before 1880, and send 10c at once for new illustrated Coin Value Book, 4x7. It may mean your fortune. C. F. Clarke Co., Box 70, LeRoy, N.Y.

BARGAIN—Three fine necktie $1. Gold-plated Pin free. Ties and pin retail at $2.50. This offer is for short time only. Send $1 at once. Money refunded by return mail if not satisfied. Name colors desired. W. C. Watkins, Parnassus, Pa.

BOYS AND GIRLS

BOYS! GIRLS! Funniest thing on earth—6 for dime. A. B. Ferry, Norwalk, Connecticut.

SEND me your name for 8 many-color art pictures (25x20) to sell at 25c each. Return the $2.00 to me and I will send you a baseball glove. Bosborough, 265 E. Lewis Block, Buffalo, New York.

FOR WOMEN

EZ WASH actually washes clothes without rubbing; absolutely harmless. Send 25 cents, 10 washings. Agents wanted. Easy Wash Company, Independence, Kansas.

SCHOOLS

ELECTRICTY, Plumbing, Bricklaying, Painting and Decorating taught by practical instruction. Positions secured for graduates. Write for illustrated catalog. Coyne Trades School, 136 E. Illinois St., Chicago

INSTRUCTION

WHERE can I find it? Why, just ask us. Enclose 25c and we will tell you where to buy, sell or find most anything quickly. Model Co., Morton Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

COLLECT MONEY. By a sure, simple system. Income $1,000 to $5,000 a year. No capital required. Quick results. Instructive book, "Skillful Collecting," free. National Collection Ass'n, Boyce St., Newark, Ohio.

POST CARDS

12 POST CARDS and 12 flirtation cards 10c. Sun Book Company, Dept. 79, Harrison, Michigan.

WANT ADS

HELP WANTED

WANTED—Railway Mail Clerks. Average $90.00 month. Rapid advancement. Every second week off duty with full pay. Short hours; no "layoffs"; work very interesting, as you travel continually on free pass. Examinations everywhere May 4th. Common education sufficient. "Pull" unnecessary; farmers stand excellent chance. Write for free sample questions and schedule showing examination places. Franklin Institute, Dept. T-31, Rochester, New York.

WANTED—Active man in each locality. To join this Society. And introduce our Membership. Sick, accident, death benefits. All or spare time. Make $50 to $500 a month. Write. Box L.H-798, Covington, Ky.

MEN learn Automobile Business. $25 weekly job guaranteed. Home instructions. Start now; be ready for spring. Booklet free. Rochester Auto School, 872, Rochester, New York.

GOVERNMENT Farmers Wanted. Examination April 16; $60 monthly; many needed. Write Ozment, 68F, St. Louis.

WANTED—Railway Mail Clerks. Examination May 4; $1,200 yearly; write for free trial lesson to-day. Ozment, K, St. Louis.

FREE Illustrated Book tells about over 300,000 protected positions in U. S. service. More than 60,000 vacancies every year. There is a big chance here for you, sure and generous pay, lifetime employment. Easy to get. Let us tell you how. Write Address 41054. No obligation. Earl Hopkins, Washington, D. C.

FEMALE HELP WANTED

LADIES—Make supporters; $10 per 100; no canvassing; material furnished. Stamped envelope for particulars. Wheeler Supply Co., Desk A, Chicago.

BE a trained nurse. Earn $15 to $35 weekly. Train at home in a short time. Free catalogue. Rochester Nurses Institute, 872, Rochester, New York.

AGENTS WANTED

FREE, Prepaid to Agents—35c sample. Lindsey, Antigo, Wisconsin, called on 56 Phone users; sold fifty—189% profit. Sanliphone Co., Desk A, Chicago.

AGENTS WANTED—Sell rich looking imported 35c rugs. $1 each. R. Carter, Milan, Tenn., sold 116 in four days; his profit, $51. You can do as well. Write for sample offer and unique selling plan; exclusive territory. B. Condon, Importer, Stonington, Maine.

WRITE for the squarest proposition ever offered. Exclusive territory for article of proven merit, a household necessity. Absolutely no competition. 100% net profit. Treasurer, 19 Doane St., Boston, Mass.

$25.00 WORTH information including samples merchandise, goods, etc. for 10c postage. Kellner Manufacturing Co., Louisville, Kentucky.

PORTRAITS—Photo pillow tops, photo china plates, frames, sheet pictures, etc., at prices below the lowest and guaranteed. Rejects credited. Prompt shipments; 30 days' credit; catalogues and samples free. Jas. C. Bailey Co., Desk O, Chicago.

AGENTS—Men or women—make big money handling Grab's Famous Household Specialties. Fastest selling articles of the age. Easy, fascinating work. Spare time or permanent. Hurry; write today. Victor M. Grab & Co., C-18, Ashland Block, Chicago, Illinois.

MAIL Order Houses can obtain names of Live agents. Patentulars, P. & B. Shirt Co., Lynn, Massachusetts.

AGENTS on salary or commission. The greatest agent's seller ever produced; every user of pen and ink buys it on sight; 200 to 500 per cent profit; one agent's sales amounted to $620 in six days; another $32 in two hours. Monroe Mfg. Co., W-95, La Crosse, Wis.

FREE—"Investing For Profit" Magazine. Send me your name and I will mail you this magazine absolutely free. Before you invest a dollar anywhere get this magazine—it is worth $10 a copy to any man who intends to invest $5 or more per month. Tells you how $1,000 can grow to $22,000—how to judge different classes of investments, the real earning power of your money. This magazine six months free, if you write today. H. L. Barber, Publisher, R. 463, 20 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

TRUSTWORTHY men or women wanted as local representative of responsible manufactuer. High class merchandise and clean selling methods. $12.00 per week guaranteed on easy conditions, with possibility of $30.00 and advance. Experience not necessary. Manufacturer, Box BP-278, Philadelphia.

MUSICAL

STRADIVARIUS VIOLIN for sale cheap. Excellent sweet toned. Sent on trial. Miss Bertha Mardisee, Route 8, Rosedale, Kansas.

RAGTIME Piano Playing taught by mail. Write for free book. Christensen Musical College, 88 Auditorium, Chicago.

SONG WRITERS: Sell your Song-Poems. Poems wanted at once. New ideas. Only way for amateurs to make money. Write now. Fleming Studio, Room 502, Gaiety Theatre Building, New York.

LOST PERSONS

WILLIAM J. VANN; age 22; height 6 feet 6 inches; light complexion; blue eyes; dark hair; weighs about 140 pounds; usually follows farming. Last heard of in Chico, California, Jan. 14, 1883. Address Mrs. Mollie James, Merit, Texas.

W. E. HYDE—5 ft. 6 in.; black hair and eyes. Last heard from ten years ago in Illinois. Address Mary M. Hyde, Blanchard, Michigan.

AUGUST JOHN CARLSON, of Skollerstad, Sweden; 6 ft. 2 in. high; 180 pounds; brown hair and eyes; age 44. Address C. J. Carlson, Box 68, Route 2, Elmonico, Washington County, Oregon.

PERSONAL

MARRY—Photos, descriptions and P. O. addresses of pretty, rich ladies and gents, want to marry, free. H. Jahn, St. Paul, Minnesota.

FORTUNE TOLD—Mysteries of life unveiled. Three 2c stamps and birthdate brings wonderful reading Prof. Miller, Box 725, St. John, Newfoundland.

MARRY—Book of Descriptions; mailed sealed free many wealthy. The Exchange, Box 626 A, Kansas City, Missouri.

MARRY—500 ladies and gentlemen will marry; highest characters; send 25c for 500 names and addresses; write direct to them. Lee Richmond, Dept. 47, Sedalia, Mo.

MARRY RICH—Matrimonial paper of highest character, containing hundreds of photos and descriptions of marriageable people with means; mailed free; sealed; either sex. Write. One may be your ideal. Standard Cor. Club, Box 607, Grays Lake, Illinois.

MARRIAGE PAPER free; best published for sure results; reliable. Eastern Agency 55, Bridgeport Connecticut.

MARRY—Post plan on earth, sends free photo of every lady member. The Pilot, Dept. 674, Marshall, Mich.

MARRY—Catalogue with hundreds of photos and descriptions free. Pay if suited. Select Club, Dept. 66, Tekonsha, Michigan.

EVERY Woman is interested and should send for our free booklet of special Toilet and other goods, giving information, directions and full particulars, invaluable to every married lady, illustrating the new Elite method, etc. Florence Mfg. Co., Birmingham, Ala.

MARRIAGE Paper; highest character; incorporated 16th year; 8,000 members; paper sealed; send 10c. B. W. Love, Box 1600, Denver, Colorado.

MARRY—Hundreds wealthy members, all ages. Descriptions free. Reliable Club, 31 Box 26, Oakland, California.

CLAIRVOYANT—Locates, finds, tells you concerning on all affairs. By mail 4c stamp. Prof. Daverkorsen, Janesville, Wisconsin.

FORTUNE Told—Send birthdate, three questions; five 2c stamps will reveal secrets of future in a wonderful reading. H. Karma, 1132 McAllister, San Francisco, California.

Escaping The Snare

By Emma Howard Wight.

"I might as well make a clean breast of the whole affair!"

[Copyright 1912 by W. D. Boyce Co.]

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CHAPTER VIII

THE IMPOSTOR.

JACK'S heart gave a bound, the blood rushed through his veins, then he grew very calm. The suspense, the uncertainty were over. There was no longer any room for doubt. The man known as Sir Gerard Courtnay was an impostor. It remained for him, Jack, to unmask him.

"Dark hair and blue eyes are characteristic of the Courtnays," the butler was saying. "Sir Gerard has blue eyes and fair coloring, but he has bright gold-colored hair like his mother's."

Jack looked at the unsuspecting old man very gravely. Where was the real Sir Gerard Courtnay? He took leave of the butler and went thoughtfully to where the trap was waiting.

"This is a case for an expert detective," he was thinking, as he got into the trap. "But I shall first try to get at the bottom of it myself. The first thing to find out is who the impostor is." He thought a moment, then turned to the boy. "Where is the cottage of the old gamekeeper, Lenny Clock?" he asked.

"On t'other side of that there piece of woods," the boy replied, pointing with his whip to a grove of fine oaks on the right of the avenue.

"Can you drive me there?" asked Jack.

The boy shook his head.

"No, sir, there ain't nothin' but a path through the woods."

Jack reflected a moment, his eyes fixed upon the beginning of the path which wound through the woods.

"Put down here," he said, with a sudden resolution. "I want to make a call on the old gamekeeper. You need not wait for me. I'll walk back to Lancaster."

The boy stopped his horse. Jack alighted and struck out along the path which wound among the beautiful old trees. A five minutes' walk, and he emerged from the wood, coming abruptly upon a cottage built of gray stone like the lodge.

An old man, seated upon the little porch, looked up as Jack approached. His hair was very white, his face brown and wrinkled, his eyes blue and alert. He returned Jack's greeting very cordially, and invited him to take a seat on the stone bench beside him.

"You be a stranger in these parts?" he remarked, as Jack sat down.

"Yes, I am from America," Jack explained.

"Deedy!" exclaimed the old gamekeeper, with interest. "Sir Gerard, he be in America."

"Sir Gerard Courtnay? He is the owner of Courtnay Manor?" questioned Jack.

"Yes, and a bonny young gentleman he be," declared the old man, "with a smile and a kind word for everybody. It's many the times him and me has gone huntin' together."

"You have lived on the estate for a long time, have you not?" queried Jack.

"Ay, sir, for thirty years. I was gamekeeper in Sir Bernard's time. Sir Bernard was Sir Gerard's grandfather."

"Is Sir Gerard the son of Sir Bernard's eldest son?"

"Yes, Mr. Edward's son. He married the daughter of a Scotch earl. She was fair and golden haired. Sir Gerard, he favors his mother's family. The younger son, what died, was like the Courtnays, blue eyed, fair skinned and dark haired."

"Had Sir Bernard Courtnay only the one son?"

"No, there was another son," Mr. Charles."

"Is he dead?"

"Yes, he died in America."

"In America?" exclaimed Jack, as though surprised.

"Yes, Mr. Charles married beneath him, and his father cast him off."

"Whom did he marry, his mother's companion, or the governess?" asked Jack, smilingly.

Lenny Clock shook his head.

"He done worse than that. He married Anna Kent, the lodgekeeper's daughter. They kept it secret for a while, but when there began to be whisperin' about Anna, Mr. Charles up and told that she was his wife, for her wasn't goin' to allow it to be said that she was followin' in the footsteps of her sister. Mr. Charles, he was different to his brother, Edward. He wasn't no seducer of women."

"And his brother—was?"

"Well, it was Mr. Edward Courtnay as got Dorcas, Anna's sister, into trouble. He was the father of Dorcas' child. Many's the time I've seen Mr. Edward and Dorcas Kent together o' nights. Dorcas' child was born the very night Mr. Edward was married. That was nigh on to twenty-seven years ago."

"What became of the child?" asked Jack.

"He stayed on at the lodge until he was about eighteen years old. Then one day him and Sir Gerard had some words, and Sir Gerard struck Luther Kent across the face with his riding whip. A few days after that Luther disappeared from the lodge. 'Twas said that Dorcas had sent him to an uncle of hers in Liverpool, fearin' he might do Mr. Gerard an injury if he stayed on at the lodge. I know myself that Luther hated Sir Gerard. P'raps 'twas only natral."

"What is he like, this Luther Kent?" asked Jack, who had been listening with almost breathless attention.

"Luther, he was a well-set-up, handsome chap, dark, favored his mother's family."

Jack sat erect, trembling with excitement. He knew who the impostor was who was impersonating Sir Gerard Courtnay—his half-brother, the illegitimate son of Dorcas Kent. What had become of Sir Gerard Courtnay?

That was for others to find out. Jack had but one thought—to return at once to America and save Dorothy from the danger threatening her. He did not think of himself or of his hopes, but only of Dorothy. It was a wrong to her to allow her to remain in ignorance a moment longer than was necessary.

"My God!" he thought, starting to his feet, "if he had succeeded in making her his wife! I understand now why I felt such an antipathy for the fellow."

He took his departure, first bestowing a pound note on the old gamekeeper, much to the latter's amazement and delight.

Jack walked rapidly along the path through the woods, and then along the avenue toward the lodge. At the lodge he stopped, looking with great interest at the house in which Dorothy's mother had been born.

"Do you want me to open the gates, sir?" asked a quiet voice behind him.

Jack started and turned, finding himself face to face with Dorcas Kent.

"They told me at the hotel in Lancaster that I might perhaps get board here at the lodge for a few days," said Jack, using the first thing that occurred to him to detain her as an excuse to talk with her. "I am an American artist, and I want to sketch parts of Courtnay Manor Park."

She looked at him a little quickly and with interest when he mentioned America. She must know that her son was in America, Jack reasoned. Did she know of the imposture he was practicing? Was she a party to it?

"I sometimes take a boarder," she replied. "But I don't care much about doing it. You say you're an artist?" and she glanced at him questioningly.

"Yes," replied Jack. "I want very much to see Sir Gerard Courtnay," he added, with truth. "I understand he is in America." He watched her closely while he spoke, but her face betrayed nothing.

"Yes," she said, quietly, "he is, I believe, in America."

"I do not suppose there is any use waiting for him here," continued Jack. "I had better try to locate him in America."

The woman made no remark. Her entire manner gave the impression of absolute indifference. Jack came to the conclusion that she was either a woman of wonderful self-control, or she knew nothing of the imposture of which her son was guilty. He was inclined to believe, however, that she was in ignorance, that he would gain nothing by a sojourn at the lodge, under the same roof with Dorcas Kent. She was a woman who had sinned, no doubt through love for the man who tempted her and it was written upon her face that she had sinned. But that she was wicked enough to aid and abet her son in crime, Jack could not bring himself to believe.

He told her that he would let her hear from him if he decided to remain in the neighborhood, and walked slowly and thoughtfully back to the hotel. By the time he reached the town, he had decided upon the course he intended to pursue. Upon the following morning he started for London and went at once to Scotland Yard. He was shown into the office of the chief inspector. Jack put him into possession of all the facts relative to the imposture of Luther Kent.

"I want you to find out what has become of the real Sir Gerard Courtnay," he concluded.

CHAPTER IX.

Ten days later Jack walked quietly

Smoke of Herbs Cures Catarrh.

A Simple, Safe, Reliable Way and It Costs Nothing to Try.

This preparation of herbs, leaves, flowers and berries (containing no tobacco or habit-forming drugs) is either smoked in an ordinary clean pipe or smoking tube, and by drawing the medicated smoke into the mouth and inhaling into the lungs or sending it out through the nostrils in a perfectly natural way, the worst case of Catarrh can be eradicated.

It is not unpleasant to use, and at the same time it is entirely harmless, and can be used by man, woman or child.

Just as Catarrh is contracted by breathing cold or dust and germ-laden air just so this balmy antiseptic smoking remedy goes to all the affected parts of the air passages of the head, nose, throat and lungs. It can readily be seen why the ordinary treatments, such as sprays, ointments, salves, liquid or tablet medicines fail—they do not and can not reach all the affected parts.

If you have catarrh of the nose, throat or lungs, choking, stopped-up feeling, colds, catarrhal headaches; if you are given to hawking and spitting, this simple yet scientific treatment should cure you.

An illustrated book which goes thoroughly into the whole question of the cause, cure and prevention of catarrh will, upon request, be sent you by Dr. J. W. Blosser, 27 Walton street, Atlanta, Ga.

He will, also, mail you five days' free treatment. You will at once see that it is a wonderful remedy, and as it only costs one dollar for the regular treatment, it is within the reach of everyone. It is not necessary to send any money—simply send your name and address and the booklet and free trial package will be mailed you immediately.

Every Minute Counts When You Are in Pain

Instant Relief for Indigestion and Stomach Troubles Afforded by a Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablet.

Free Trial Package.

There is no occasion to suffer five minutes from indigestion or any similar stomach trouble when you can so easily get Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

The Time It Takes a Messenger to Get Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets Seem an Age to a Sick Stomach.

When millions are used every year—and when every other man or woman that you meet will recommend Stuart's to you if you will but inquire—why do you continue to suffer from stomach trouble? What more evidence can you ask? And as still further proof you can even send and get a sample package entirely free. The sample will surely convince you.

The reasons why Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets accomplish such results are very easy to understand. These tablets contain almost the same elements as the gastric juices of the stomach. And when your stomach is sick and not working just right, it does not give out enough of the natural digestive juices to properly take care of the food you eat. So if you will only give the stomach a little help by taking a Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablet you will relieve it of its chief duty and allow it the rest it needs to recuperate. One grain of the active principle in a Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablet will digest 3,000 grains of food, whether you place it in a glass jar or in your stomach.

All druggists sell them. The price is 50 cents per box. If you prefer to try them first write to F. A. Stuart Co., 320 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, Mich., and a sample package will be sent you free.

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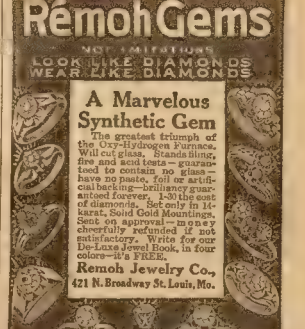

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Powerful Aviation Type Motor

Write today for handsome catalogue and full particulars of this wonderful offer. No obligations whatever. We will tell you all about the wonderful Aviation Type Motor with which the "Arrow" is equipped.

Write today. Do not delay an instant. Just send your name and address on a postal or a letter, but do it now.

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like hungry wolves, fill your nets traps or trotline if you bait with

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Best bait ever discovered for attracting all kinds of fish, 50cts. a box. Write for Free Booklet and my special offer of one box to help introduce it. Address **J. F. Gregory, K-27, St. Louis, Mo**

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We can positively show you by mail HOW TO INCREASE YOUR SALARY. Book mailed free. PAGE-DAVIS Dept. 77, Chicago, Ill.

AGENTS WANTED

AGENTS WANTED in every town in the United States to sell Fibre-Silk Hosiery and Underwear—a permanent, pleasant and profitable business; $150 to $200 per month easily made. A young woman Fibre-Silk agent in Minnesota made $8,000last year. Our sales instructor tells you how. Get our free book—from the Mill to the Home. Write today.
Address
WORLD'S STAR KNITTING CO.
DEPT. 58. BAY CITY, MICH.

AGENTS wanted to sell the Original Native Herbs. $1 box, 250 Tablets, for 60c. For rheumatism, liver, kidney and stomach trouble. C. MELROSE, Columbus, Ohio

AGENTS Don't accept an agency until you read our new book "Piling Dollars." It's free. DARLING CO., Derry, N. H.

WE PAY $36 A WEEK AND EXPENSES to men with rig to introduce our poultry compound. Year's contract. IMPERIAL MFG. CO., Dept. 67, Parsons, Kansas

AGENTS PORTRAITS, 35c; FRAMES, 15c; Sheet Pictures, 1c; Stereoscopes, 25c; Views, 1c. 30 days' credit. Samples and Catalog Free. Consolidated Portrait Co., Dept. 5053—1027 W. Adams St., Chicago

DON'T ACCEPT an agency until you get my samples and particulars. MURRAY BAKER Address SAYMAN 604 Bayless Building, St. Louis, Mo.

TOBACCO FACTORY WANTS SALESMEN Good steady Work and Promotion. Experience unnecessary as we give Complete Instructions. Piedmont Tobacco Co., Rt. 814, Danville, Va.

BOTTLE CLOTHES DRYER
AGENTS WANTED Make $3 to $5 a day Send 15 cents for sample. Nice selling article. Richard-on-Mfg. Co., Dept. 7, Bath, N.Y.

AGENTS $5.00 per 1. Ludwig for collecting names and addresses at home. Steady work. Particulars for stamp Valentine, Box 28, Desk G, Rocky Ridge, Md.

WE PAY $80 A MONTH SALARY and furnish rig and expenses to introduce our guaranteed stock and poultry powders; money-back guarantee; outfit free; now ready. Address STANDARD MFG. CO., X 520, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

OUTFIT FREE TO AGENTS
Best selling Handkerchiefs, Dress Goods and Fancy Goods on the market. Quick sellers, big profits. Real direct [illegible] plan; full particulars. Address Maricopa Mfg. Co., 88 Water St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

AGENTS FREE OUTFIT You can easily make big money selling our [illegible] and Tailored Garments, Dress Goods, Waists, Millinery, Lingerie, etc. Free outfit; big profits; exclusive territory; pleasant, easy work. Our low prices can't be equaled. Write today. Schwartz Importing Co., Dept. X06, St. Louis, Mo.

AGENTS WANTED to sell pocket knives with name and photo on handle. Write for terms. Morris Cutlery Co., Morris, Ill., P.O. Box A

Agents, Signists—1000% Profit
Beautiful window letters. Very low prices; easy proposition. Something new. Per mounted sample gets orders. Embossed Slate Co., 2264 Milwaukee Av., Chicago

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$50 to $100 Per Week Easily Earned.
selling our metallic letters for office windows, store fronts, and glass signs. Any one can put them on. Nice, pleasant business. Big demand. Write today for free sample and full particulars. Address
METALLIC SIGN LETTER CO., 416 North Clark Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

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Hustlers to handle our attractive combination package of soap and toilet articles with valuable premiums. One Michigan agent made $66 in 47 hrs., another $41 in 8 hrs.—another $22.50 in 10 hrs. Write today.
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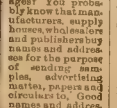
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into the office where his father was sitting.

"Why, Jack!" the latter exclaimed, in astonishment.

"You didn't expect to see me back so soon, did you father?" said Jack, with a smile.

"I did not, indeed, but I am right down glad to see you, my boy," Ashley replied, as they shook hands. "And how well you're looking! You don't look like the same fellow you did when you went away."

Jack laughed.

"I don't feel like the same fellow, father," he declared.

His father regarded him a little curiously. It seemed hardly possible that Jack could have got over his grief and disappointment so quickly. Jack read his thoughts, but the time had not come for him to explain.

"Is Sir Gerard Courtnay still here, father?" he asked, quietly.

"No, Sir Gerard Courtnay is in New York," was the reply. Jack breathed a sigh of relief. It was maddening to him to think of Luther Kent as Dorothy's lover. He had been wondering how he would be able to endure to see it until the time was ripe for him to expose the fellow. "He went away about a week ago," continued Ashley. "I don't think he will return until a day or so before the wedding." He hesitated a moment, and then added, "That is set for the first day in November."

"Indeed!" remarked the young man, quietly, and his father wondered more than ever.

Jack went up to his room, had a bath, came down, ate a hearty lunch, and then started along the beach for Dr. Ainslie's. He walked briskly until he caught him at the sight of a graceful figure standing on the beach. It was Dorothy. She was standing, looking out over the sea, and she did not know of Jack's presence until he reached her side and spoke her name.

"Dorothy!"

She started and turned.

"Jack!" she cried, wonderingly, her eyes lighting joyously, the lovely color deepening on her cheeks.

As he looked at her, Jack's heart gave a great bound of joy.

"Dorothy," he said, taking her hand as he spoke and controlling himself with an effort, "are you glad to see me?"

She looked at him with eyes that set his pulses quivering.

"I am very, very glad," she replied. "You don't know how I have missed you, Jack."

The softness of her voice, the touch of her slim, clinging fingers swept away Jack's self-control. With a murmured exclamation of tenderness and passion, he caught her in his arms and kissed her upon the lips. For the moment she yielded to his embrace, then she struggled from his arms and stood, flushed and trembling, looking at him with passionate reproach in her eyes.

"That was cowardly," she murmured. He laughed gladly, exultantly.

"I had the right, Dorothy," he declared. "You love me."

She gave him a quick, startled look.

"You had no right, you know you had not!" she exclaimed.

"Do you deny what your eyes, your voice told me so plainly a few moments ago?"

She broke down and covered her face with her hands.

"How cruel you are!" she murmured, brokenly. "It is unmanly to press me like this."

"I could not be cruel to you, my darling," Jack protested. "I could not help doing what I did—when you showed that you loved me."

She dropped her hands from her face and turned to him with sudden calmness.

"You are right—I do love you," she said. "I found that out after you went away. I missed you so. But it is too late now. I am the promised wife of another man."

"You would marry a man you do not love?" exclaimed Jack.

"I shall keep my word," she replied, with firmness.

"Tell me, Dorothy, what induced you to promise to marry—Sir Gerard Courtnay?" asked Jack, curiously.

She thought a moment, then shook her head helplessly.

"I do not know. From the first moment that I saw him here, almost upon this very spot, he possessed a strange fascination for me. I thought it was—love."

Jack stood thinking. What was this strange attraction? Was it, as Dorothy had once half jokingly claimed, the call of the blood? The tie of blood between her and the false Sir Gerard Courtnay wast twofold. Or was there some fatality that brought about the intermingling of the destinies of the highborn Courtnays and the plebeian Kents?

He turned gravely to Dorothy.

"If I prove to you that the man you have promised to marry is unworthy, will you marry me?" he asked.

She looked at him, startled.

"What do you mean, Jack?" she exclaimed.

"I cannot say anything more now," he replied.

She was silent for a moment.

"Yes," she said, at length, in a low voice. "If you do what you say, I will break my engagement and marry—you."

"Very well," said Jack. "Now, let me take you home. I want to see the Doctor. There is something I wish to say in the presence of you both."

An hour later Jack had told Dorothy and her father all.

"Thank God! we found out the truth before it was too late to save Dorothy from such a fate!" exclaimed Dr. Ainslie, as he walked agitatedly up and down the room, while Dorothy sat pale, silent, inexpressibly shocked. He stopped and laid his hand on Jack's shoulder. "Dorothy and I can never repay you for what you have done for us, Jack," he said, with much feeling. Jack smiled a little and glanced at Dorothy. A little color crept into her pale cheeks, but she could not recover readily from the shock of what she had just heard. Jack decided not to say anything to the Doctor until she was more herself

"I think you can guess how glad I am," he said, quietly.

"I never did want Dorothy to marry that fellow," said Dr. Ainslie. "I was never the least taken over her engagement to a baronet. My God! It's horrible to think that my child has the same blood in her veins as that impostor, that scoundrel, that baseborn degenerate! What steps have you taken to expose him, Jack?"

"I have put the case in the hands of the Scotland Yard detectives," replied Jack. "I think it best to wait for a report from them before taking steps to expose the impostor."

The servant summoned Dr. Ainslie from the room to see a patient in the office. Jack turned and looked questioningly at Dorothy.

"You said you would marry me if I proved that man unworthy?" he said

She smiled and her cheeks flushed.

"Father says we can never repay you for what you have done," she murmured.

"You can more than repay me," he answered, going to her and kneeling beside her.

She slipped her arms about his neck and rested her cheek against his with a little sigh of content.

"I shall spend the rest of my life trying," she murmured, softly.

CHAPTER X.

"SIR GERARD IS DEAD."

Three weeks later Jack was seated in the office, when a tall, broad-shouldered man entered and came up to the desk.

"I would like to see Mr. Ashley," he said.

"I am Jack Ashley," Jack explained. "Do you wish to see me or my father?"

The keen gray eyes of the man looked Jack over quickly, then he smiled.

"It's you I wish to see Mr. Ashley. He took from his pocket a card and handed it to Jack. On it was inscribed: "Marcus Wells, Detective, Scotland Yard, London, England."

Jack looked from the card to the detective, quickly, eagerly.

"You have news for me?" he exclaimed.

"Yes, Sir Gerard Courtnay is dead."

"Dead?" repeated Jack.

"Sir Gerard Courtnay was murdered by Luther Kent, the man who is impersonating him," Marcus Wells explained, as he took the chair which Jack placed for him.

"A murderer!" murmured Jack, in a hushed, shocked voice. "No wonder he repelled me." Then he thought of Dorothy nearly married to such a man and shuddered. "Thank God it was in my power to save her," he murmured, with unspeakable gratitude.

"The case was assigned to me by our inspector," continued the detective. "I went down to Courtnay Manor and found that Sir Gerard Courtnay had left there on the 28th day of last January, with the intention of sailing from Liverpool for America. I found out that this fact had been communicated by Dorcas Kent to her son, who was working on the docks in Liverpool."

"Then his mother is his accomplice?" exclaimed Jack.

"No. She knows nothing beyond the fact that her son is in America. It appears she just happened to mention in a letter to her son that Sir Gerard Courtnay was going to America, and would sail from Liverpool. The unfortunate woman little knew what terrible consequences would

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result from her information. It is evident that Luther Kent watched for Sir Gerard Courtnay's arrival, whether with the intention of murdering him or otherwise, it is impossible to say. Sir Gerard Courtnay arrived in Liverpool on the evening of January 31st, at about nine o'clock. He left the train and passed out of the station, carrying a small satchel. The last person who saw him alive was a cabman who offered him his services. Sir Gerard Courtnay declined to take a cab, remarking that it was such a lovely night he preferred to walk to the hotel. That was the last seen of him alive.

"Upon the following morning a man registered at the Hotel Stanham as Sir Gerard Courtnay. He came to the hotel in a cab, carrying a small satchel. He handed over several checks at the office, instructing them to send to the station for his trunks. He is described as tall, dark, and handsome. He remained for a couple of days at the hotel, going out very seldom. Then he sailed for America on the steamer Ursula.

"A week later the body of a man was washed up on the shore of a small fishing village about twenty-five miles from Liverpool. The villagers, ignorant fishermen, knew of no way to try to identify the body. They had a rough coffin made and buried the body in the little cemetery outside the town. The body has recently been exhumed and identified by certain peculiarities as the body of Sir Gerard Courtnay. It has also been found that death was not due to drowning, but to a blow on the head which fractured the skull. Sir Gerard Courtnay was first murdered, and then the body was thrown into the water. Now, Mr. Ashley, where is this Luther Kent, alias Sir Gerard Courtnay, to be found? I have a warrant for his arrest on the charge of murder."

"He is in New York at the Hotel Astor," replied Jack. "I would like to go with you to New York," he added.

"I shall be glad to have you," declared [illegible] You've done some fine [illegible] work for an amateur, Mr. A[illegible]. You've missed your vocation. [illegible] one of us."

"I am afraid you overrate my ability," said Jack, with a smile, remembering what his imitative had been.

It was arranged that they would start for New York on the afternoon train. Jack took Marcus Wells to the dining-room and left him to do justice to a substantial lunch, while he went to inform Dr. Ainslie and Dorothy of the startling developments. As he passed out of the lobby, Dr. Ainslie was coming up the steps to the veranda.

"I was just going to your house, Doctor," Jack exclaimed. "I have some news for you."

"You are coming to tell me that Sir Gerard Courtnay is dead?" queried Dr. Ainslie.

"Why, yes," Jack answered, somewhat surprised. "How did you know?"

"I received a letter this morning from Sir Gerard Courtnay's lawyer in London," the Doctor explained, "informing me of Sir Gerard Courtnay's death." He looked at Jack and smiled a little. "You seem to have forgotten that Dorothy, as next of kin, succeeds to the estates."

Jack started and a look of dismay overspread his face.

"I—I had forgotten," he murmured.

"I'll tell you a secret, Jack," said Dr. Ainslie, with a whimsical smile. "I am no more pleased over it—than you are."

Jack flushed with a touch of embarrassment.

"I suppose I ought to be glad for Dorothy's," he said, wistfully.

Dr. Ainslie laid his hand affectionately on Jack's shoulder.

"I am more pleased over the fact that Dorothy will one day be your wife, Jack," he said, "than in the knowledge that she is mistress of Courtnay Manor with an income of sixty thousand dollars a year. And—I am sure Dorothy is, too."

Jack's face cleared.

"If that's so, sir, then it's all right," he declared. "I couldn't help feeling dismayed when I heard that Dorothy was a great lady. Come in, Doctor. I want you to talk with the Scotland Yard detective who is here to arrest Luther Kent for the murder of Sir Gerard Courtnay."

CHAPTER XI.
THE QUESTION.

Luther Kent, alias Sir Gerard Courtnay, sat in the smokingroom of the Hotel Astor, a high-priced cigar between his lips and a cocktail on a table at his elbow. He leisurely finished his cocktail, dropped his half-finished cigar into a receiver, arose, and strolled out into the lobby. He lingered about the lobby for a little while, then went toward the elevator, which was just about to ascend. As he entered, he found himself face to face with Miss Cromwell.

"Why, Sir Gerard!" she exclaimed, her sallow face flushing.

He smiled and held out his hand.

"Miss Cromwell! This is quite an unexpected pleasure," he said. "Are you stopping in this hotel?"

"No," she replied. "I am calling upon a friend who is stopping here. This is my floor," she added, as the elevator came to a stop. "So pleased to have seen you again! Good morning!"

There was a thoughtful look on Luther Kent's face as he entered his suite of rooms on the floor above.

"I believe it would have been far wiser to have married the Cromwell woman," he was thinking. "I would have married her and made a good thing of it if I had never seen Dorothy Ainslie. My passion for her may prove my undoing. I wonder what has become of that fellow, Ashley? He had a way of looking me through that got on my nerves. I am glad he is out of the way."

There came a knock on the door. Before Luther Kent had time to reach it, the door opened and Jack Ashley entered, followed closely by the detective. Luther Kent stood motionless, looking swiftly from Jack to the detective. There was a moment's silence, then Jack spoke.

"Luther Kent, where is Sir Gerard Courtnay?" he asked.

The dark, handsome face of the impostor turned to a chalky white; he shrank and trembled. Then he made a great effort at self-control.

"Is this some joke, Mr. Jack Ashley?" he queried, with a ghastly smile.

"It will avail you nothing to take that tone, Kent," declared Jack. "You are found out. You are the illegitimate son of Dorcas Kent, half-brother to the man you first murdered and then impersonated."

"Admitting that I am Luther Kent, what proof have you that I murdered Sir Gerard Courtnay?" asked Kent. "How do you know that he was murdered?"

"Sir Gerard Courtnay's body has been found and identified as Luther Kent started. "He was killed by a blow on the head and his body thrown into the water. This gentleman," indicating Marcus Wells, "is a detective from Scotland Yard with a warrant for your arrest for the murder of Sir Gerard Courtnay upon the night of January 31st."

A sudden fierce light leaped into Kent's black eyes.

"Yes, I killed him," he said, in a low, concentrated voice. "I hated him. I had always hated him from the moment I was old enough to understand that I was the baseborn son of the same father. I hated him because I was an outcast, while he was the pampered grandson of Sir Bernard Courtnay. I hated him the more passionately for every taunt flung at me. Then, one day, when I was what he called insolent, he struck me across the face with his riding whip." The man's hands were clenched and his eyes had a wild beast glare in them. He seemed almost to have forgotten the presence of the two men who watched and listened to him fascinated. "From that hour I was possessed by a longing to kill him. The sight of that fair, womanish face of his aroused a devil within me. My mother told me that I must go away, or she would have to leave the lodge. I was not sorry to go away where the shame of my birth was not known. I went to Liverpool. I was strong, and I obtained work along the docks.

"I was bitterly discontented. One day I read in the papers that Edward Courtnay was dead. I cursed him in his grave. Not long after that old Sir Bernard Courtnay died, and Gerard was master at Courtnay Manor."

He paused. Neither Jack nor the detective spoke, fearing by a word to break the spell that held the man and seemed to cause him to tell all without any volition of his own. They waited almost breathlessly. After a moment Luther Kent continued:

"When I learned that Gerard Courtnay was coming to Liverpool, I waited and watched for him. I did not know myself just what I intended doing when he did come, except that I would give back to him the blow he had struck me. I watched for several days, then he came. It was in the evening, and when I saw his smiling, womanish face, the old hatred swept over me with redoubled force. I longed to kill him. I followed him. Chance favored me. He did not take a cab; he started to walk to the hotel along the water front. Steadily I gained upon him. He walked along whistling, carrying a small satchel. I had in my hand a heavy stick. I crept up behind him. The blood beat in my temples, a red light flashed before my eyes. The whistling suddenly ceased. On the ground at my feet there was a dark, huddled-up form. I had struck him down.

"I threw the stick into the river, and kneeling down, felt for his heart. It had ceased to beat. He was dead. I lifted the body and threw it into the water." Again he paused, staring straight before him somberly.

"When did it first occur to you to impersonate Sir Gerard Courtnay?" asked the detective.

Luther Kent started, and, for the first time since he had been speaking, looked at the two men, a little dazedly.

"What—what have I been saying?" he murmured, passing his hand bewilderedly over his brow.

"You've been telling us how you killed Sir Gerard Courtnay," replied the detective quickly. "So you might as well make a clean breast of the entire thing. It won't make matters any worse for you to give the details, the imposture stands for itself."

Luther Kent dropped down upon a chair, looking white and exhausted. They had all been standing while he was speaking.

"You're right, I might as well make a clean breast of the whole thing," he acquiesced, with a mixture of weariness and moodiness. "After I threw the body into the water, I took the satchel and went to my boarding place. I opened the satchel and examined the contents. It contained several changes of linen, and toilet articles, a large sum of money, letters of credit upon American banks, a check book, checks for trunks which were in the station. As I looked through the contents of the satchel it suddenly occurred to me to impersonate the dead man for a time. It was comparatively easy to do that by going to some place where he was unknown. He had intended going to America. I would go there as Sir Gerard Courtnay. The money in the satchel and the letter of credit would be sufficient for my needs for some time. In the meanwhile I would learn to imitate the dead man's handwriting." He broke off abruptly, petulantly, "You know the rest."

"Yes," said the detective. "I have traced your movements from the time you appeared at the hotel in Liverpool as Sir Gerard Courtnay. You must have known that you could not keep up such an imposture."

"I intended to marry some rich American woman, get possession of a large sum of money, and depart for parts unknown," Kent explained, coolly. The detective smiled. Jack looked disgusted. "I intended marrying Miss Cromwell." He looked at Jack darkly. "I met her first here in New York. She was willing enough to become Lady Courtnay. I followed her when she went to the seaside and there——" he paused.

"And there you discovered the heiress to Courtnay Manor, and thought it might prove more advantageous to marry her," supplemented Jack.

Kent looked at him, and an odd smile crept about his lips.

"You have shown yourself pretty clever in this matter, Jack Ashley," he said. "But you are wrong in this instance. I intended to marry Dorothy

(Continued on page twenty.)

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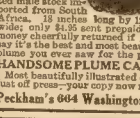

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Mrs Goodsole—Here! Come back to toat woodpile. Didn't you say if I gave you a square meal you'd work?
Sauntering Sam—Well, didn't I work you, lady?

He Would Make a Speech.

A young man who recently got married insisted that it was his duty to make a speech.

And this is how he did it

"My dear friends, I—er—it gives me great pleasure to tell—that is, to inform you that I shouldn't like to be a widow I mean a bachelor—again, and I'm sure my wife wouldn't, either. No, no! I should have said that my wife wouldn't be a spin—that is, a spinster if she could. Er—I cannot sit down—I mean I cannot resume my seat without thanking you for the birthday—er—I mean wedding presents which you have showered upon me with such confusion—er—profusion. You have made us very happy more than your presence—er—I mean—that is—I should have said exactly opposite to what I said when I said that I mean—I—she—or rather we—said——"

Here he gave it up

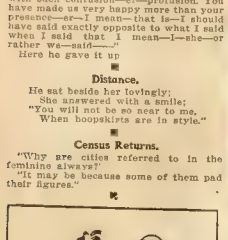
Distance.

He sat beside her lovingly;
She answered with a smile;
"You will not be so near to me,
When hoopskirts are in style."

Census Returns.

"Why are cities referred to in the feminine always?"

"It may be because some of them pad their figures."



Bacon—Heavens, man! Why are you reducing your weight so?

Stinginess—We have a scale at our house that weighs only to ninety-nine pounds; if I don't weigh less than that it's no good to me.

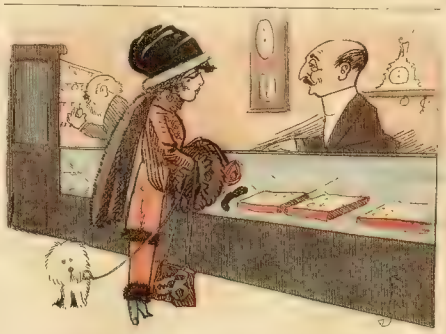
By the Law.

"Who is that handsome young man standing over there?" inquired an old gentleman of a rich old lady at a party.

"That's my son-in-law. He's a very brilliant young man; made a large fortune by the law."

"Indeed!" said the old gentleman. "How's that?"

"The law made him my daughter's husband."



Great Actress—I want to buy one big diamond earring
Jeweler—Just one earring?
Great Actress—Yes. I'm going to have my photos taken profile and one earring is all that will show in the picture.

Both Ways.

"I think that partner you just danced with is the ugliest man I've ever seen."

"Huh, dear, you forget yourself!"

A Half Told Tale.

He—I dreamt that I proposed to a pretty girl last night.

She—Well, go on! What did I say?

Not Consoling.

One of the boys had broken one of the school rules, and no one would own up. The teacher announced that he would thrash the whole class if some one did not tell him who had committed the offense.

All were silent, and he began with the first boy and thrashed every one in the class until finally he reached the last one. Then he said: "Now, if you will tell me who did this I won't thrash you."

"All right, sir, I did it," was the reply.

Childish Wisdom.

Mabel, did you go down to the drug store for that cold cream?

"Yeth, ma'am."

"Well, where is it?"

"I ate it, of course."

"Ate it? Why, child, what kind did you get?"

"Chocolate ice cream. It was the coldest kind I could get."

Very Suspicious.

"How about this fare," demanded the stranger in New York.

"I haven't overcharged you, sir," declared the cabman.

"I know you haven't, and why haven't you? What sort of a deep game are you up to? Answer me, now."

Bark and Squeal.

"Nothing lost here but the squeal," declared the pork packer. "Are you economical in conducting your business?"

"Just about," answered the visitor. "I'm in the lumber business. We waste nothing but the bark."

Work for the Rector.

The Rector—Now, Molly, would you rather be beautiful or good?

Molly—I'd rather be beautiful and repent.

The Lady—How did Mrs Welthes limit of Fido?
The Artist—She wouldn't take it; it'gold tooth when he smiled.

Not Unreasonable.

A train in Arizona was boarded by robbers, who went through the pockets of the luckless passengers. One of the latter happened to be a traveling [illegible] from New York, who, when his turn came, flashed out $200, but rapidly took $4 from the pile and placed it in his vest pocket. "What do you mean by that?" asked the robber as he toyed with his revolver. Hurriedly came the answer: "Nine cent, you surely would not refuse me 3 per cent discount on a strictly cash transaction like dis?"

Some Difference.

Flypp—I see that a woman who wore men's clothes for twenty years has been declared insane.

Blypp—Yes, and any man who would wear women's clothes might count on being in the asylum before the week was up.

Not Impressed.

"Dad, my coming-out gown will cost an even hundred."

"I once knew a girl who made her own gown, at a cost of two dollars, and thus won a husband."

"I don't want a two-dollar husband."

Careless Mother.

Lady—Why do you cry, little boy?

Little Boy—That mother o' mine—she's gone—an' lost me again!

A Grace for Others.

A little girl had been very naughty, so her mother told her she should have no pudding for dinner. Later the others had a nice jam pudding, while the little culprit received only a piece of bread and butter.

"Now, Kitty," said her mother, at the end of the meal, "say grace."

Kitty obeyed. Closing her eyes and folding her hands, she said with emphasis:

"For what they have received may they be truly thankful."

His Suspicions Aroused.

"John, do you love your little wife?"

"Yes."

"Do you love her very much?"

"Oh, yes."

"Will you always love me?"

"Yes—say, woman, what have you gone and ordered sent home now?"

His Motto.

"Reckon the old man will get on the water wagon this year?"

"Don't think so. He always says there isn't room enough for him, and his motto is: 'Don't crowd!'"

Crafty Vegetarian.

Nebuchadnezzar went on all fours.

"Men are mistaken for deer, even when they walk upright," he consoled himself.

The Generous Liveryman.

Young Man—Mr. Chargewell, I have managed to bring your horse back, but the sleigh is all smashed up. I had to walk all the way, and it has been an awful job; been walking all day; most tired to death. I suppose I'll have to pay for the smash.

Liveryman—It was a miserable old hack and couldn't have lasted long anyway. I won't charge anything for that. It wasn't worth ten dollars.

Young Man—I am glad to be relieved of that burden. How much do I owe you?

Liveryman—Let—me—see. You started at eight a. m. and it's now ten p. m.; fourteen hours at five an hour—seventy dollars.

Green's Move.

Three rival tailors lived in the same street. One had a notice board over his shop with "Brown, the Best Tailor in the World" upon it. White, not to be outdone, followed suit with a notice: "White, the Best Tailor in London." Green, seeing his rivals getting in front of him, also had a board printed "Green, the best Tailor in This Street."

Not Silent.

St Peter—H'm! I never heard much of you on earth.

Deacon Loudd—You didn't? Goodness me! My shoes squeaked louder than anybody's in church.

Married Men Preferred.

Old Editor—Where is Scribbler?

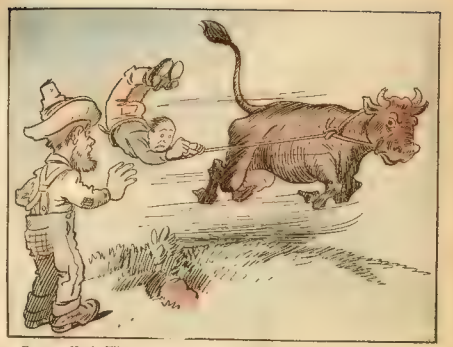
Assistant—Gone off to get married.

Old Editor—Well, I'm glad of that. He won't kick so about staying here nights now.

He Needs a Rest.

"Doctor, do you think a trip to Europe would do me any good?

"Yes. Let your wife take it."

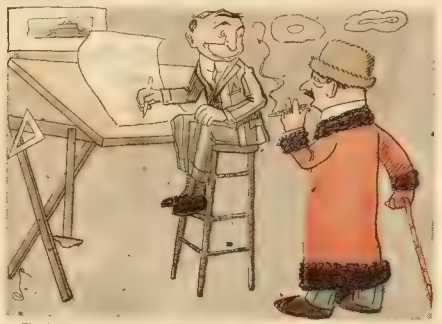


Farmer—Hey! Where are you going with that cow?
Boy—I donno. Ask the cow!

His Version of It.

A young lady who is proud of her scholars in a Brooklyn Sunday School has drilled them carefully to recite the twenty-third Psalm. One day while they were loudly repeating it in unison she paid particular attention to the little boy who sat next to her. To her horror she heard him shout:

"And surely the good Mrs Murphy will follow us all the days of our life."



The Owner—In my new house I want a simple breakfast room in addition to the more elaborate dining room.
The Architect—I see. What you want is an oatmeal mush room and a grilled mushroom room.

Prepared for Relatives.

Husband (at dinner)—My! My! This is a regular banquet—worthy of a Delmonico. Finest spread I've seen in an age. What's up? Did you expect company?

Wife—No, but I presume the cook does.

No I. O. U.'s.

"Do you play by note?" asked Mrs. Cumrox.

"Certainly not," replied the celebrated pianist. "My terms are strictly cash."

A Sure Sign.

"How do you know they're man and wife?"

"I just overheard her telling him not to smoke another cigar tonight."

The Call of Duty.

"I try to do my duty," said the exceeding sincere person, "and I do not hesitate to remind others of their duty."

"Go ahead," replied the easy-going citizen. "You may prove to be a very useful member of society. But when you get through you'll have as many sincere friends and admirers as an alarm clock."

Took Precautions.

Mrs. Brown—I'm thinking of giving up using fresh milk. I read an article in the paper saying all kinds of infection can be got from it.

Milkman—Don't worry, madam; our water is always well boiled first.

A Great Nerve.

"I have just been reading about the remarkable fortitude of a Kansas bridegroom."

"What did he do?"

"It seems that he was able to sing at his own wedding."

He Knew.

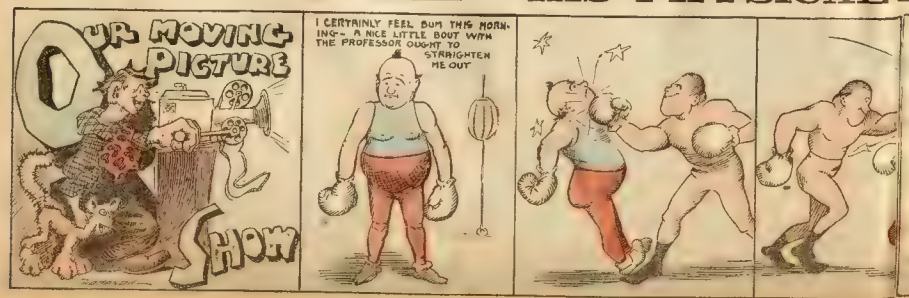
"Don't you think that seeing is believing?"

"No. I see people every day that I wouldn't believe."

Stern Papa—Georgie, what does this zero mean on your school report?

Bright Georgie—I—I think that's a report of the last cold spell we had.

HIS PHYSICAL TURE LESSON.


OUR MOVING PICTURE SHOW
I CERTAINLY FEEL BUM THIS MORNING— A NICE LITTLE BOUT WITH THE PROFESSOR OUGHT TO STRAIGHTEN ME OUT
I FEEL LIKE A DIFFERENT MAN—BEST TREATMENT I'VE HAD FOR MONTHS.

THE ISLAND OF GOLD;

Or, THE SWORD OF THE SEA

By WILLIAM H. MANNING

[Copyright 1912 by W. D. Boyce Co.]

Begun in No. 6, Feb. 10. Subscriptions can begin with that issue, or back copies can be obtained from news stands, our agents, or by mail from the office of publication.

CHAPTER XIII

A STRANGE TURN

ROBERT found himself leaning almost wholly upon Zattillo and his sagacity. The young American had courage enough, but with so many foes to deal with he felt that cunning, rather than open warfare, must be relied upon. Right there the ability of the native came into play. While in the sailboat there had been some effort at planning, but it had been decided that they must be governed by circumstances as they found them, and nothing was yet settled.

"The pirates seem asleep," said Robert, tentatively.

"Me see no light and hear no voice. Best we first go to pit to see if gold-diggers, they busy. If they not there, we feel bolder."

"Good! Lead on!"

They went, and found the pit untenanted. Seeing this, Robert briefly forgot everything else and lowered himself. The pirates had used their spades effectively, and the cavity was deep, but he looked and felt in vain for further signs. His hand, trying to take the place of his eyes, ran along the ground carefully, but no ancient coin was encountered. If the freebooters had found anything valuable, there was nothing to tell of it.

Zattillo was standing patiently at the edge of the pit, and presently Robert swung himself back to the level.

"Now, then, what shall we do?" he asked crisply.

"Houses over there," the islander answered, quietly. "All together, so if girl hear, she not panic close. We go back."

Robert's spirits took a downward tumble. With no one over the island and a hundred foemen opposed to them, how was it to be done?

"I don't see," he murmured, dubiously, "how we are to learn which house she is in."

"Look in all till find her."

"Probably we shall awaken a lot of pirates in the first place we enter."

"Mustn't do that. You let Zattillo look. He step like rat."

"That's something I certainly can't do. Lead on, good friend!"

"Come!"

Zattillo moved, and as Robert noted how his feet fell a faint ripple of hope came to the American. The native was surely soft-footed, but—the undertaking still looked large.

The leader moved toward the south end of the village, where the largest houses were. He was wholly composed, but his head turned frequently, and it was clear that he was trying to make sure that nobody else was astir. Absence of lights was no proof to the contrary, for the tropic air was warm enough to lead men to the outer air, and a lounger would have no need of a lamp. In a short time Zattillo reached a certain house, paused by the door, listened, and then, turning to Robert long enough to make a warning gesture, he glided within.

To his companion it seemed little less than suicide. He had been prepared for a reconnaissance, but this bold intrusion took him by surprise. He stood motionless, gazing after his ally, but not daring to peer inside, and felt generally flustered.

The seconds passed. Utter silence was about him. It did not seem as if the native could be moving. Had he met with a set-back and been obliged to secrete himself? Was discovery impending?

Somebody came to the open door. Robert grew briefly exultant, and then his hopes ebbed, for it was not Zattillo. The movements of the man were deliberate, and it was clear that he did not suspect that mischief was afoot, but, being awake and active, he blocked the game wholly for the time. Zattillo was inside, and this stranger was an unconscious jailer.

Robert knew he was within the range of the man's vision, and that discovery was imminent. Detected, a cry of alarm would doubtless come from the dusky throat, and for him to shout was to arouse the whole village. The cry must be prevented, and, holding his knife, the sailor watched and waited, ready to leap forward and deal a blow.

Slowly, however, the pirate turned to look in another direction. Robert noiselessly retreated and gained the rear of the house. This looked like great good luck, and he was mentally congratulating himself, when he saw another man at his elbow.

"I have been waiting for you, master," said the quiet remark.

Robert started and looked hard. The speaker was English almost as ready as Zattillo, but its softness of tone told that it was from an islander. As he could be no friend, it was clear that he was an enemy, and the dreaded discovery had come, though strangely.

"I have made my choice," pursued the unknown, "and I will accept your offer. I will swear that I shall have all the money you have promised, but it is no small matter. Unless I win I shall die."

The hearer saw that he had been mistaken for somebody else. As he could not recognize his supposed identity, he resolved to take a bold push and accept for the time being.

"Well," he replied, "now that you have heard what next?"

"Not so fast, master. I have seen you often, but you call Shrogg, and he says you are a crazy man. He is very much afraid to agree."

"Why does Shrogg object?" asked Robert, seeking light.

"He says do not meddle with the girl." Ah, muttered the American, his ideas becoming clearer.

"He says no help will come for her that will be dangerous as the enmity of Arrowpack. Like you, he is sorry she was brought here, but as it is too late to undo the work, he says stick to Arrowpack and make no foes. I told him you wanted to be faithful to Arrowpack, but that you believed the girl would make trouble for all hands, so she ought to go back to Popoatto. Then he swear some, but says he will do as you order."

Robert saw light. He had been mistaken for Abner Caswell. And that man, disapproving of the kidnaping of Mary Lee, was plotting against Arrowpack, and anxious to get her away from Watihoe. A ray of light was mingled with the darkness of the mix-up, and he made an effort to get further information. Shrogg was captain of Abner's brig, but Robert did not want to meet him.

"Well, what next?" he asked.

"We will try to get the girl," replied the native.

"Now?"

"It must be at once or never."

"I am ready."

"I will get her from the house, but you must talk with her. She has seen me, and she is afraid of me. I carry her supper to her, and when I see she shrinks from me I say, 'I am your friend, do not be afraid.' It was useless, she saw the many scars on my face, and then I tell that Malay girl who was upon her, tells her that I am a bad pirate, and a butcher of men, so now the girl from Popoatoo fears me more than ever. I will take her away, but once it is done, you must be the one to talk with her."

"That will be according to my wish," Robert replied.

"Come now, and we get her quick."

The sailor was confused and uncertain. Dark as it was he had the impression that his companion was a man of the worst sort, a Malay with no alloy of good in his evil nature; and such a man was not a safe companion for him, much less for Mary Lee. Robert longed for the presence of Zattillo, but that man remained invisible. In his confusion and doubt one idea, however, rose plain and high—if he had chance to get Mary, he must accept it, and let the future look out for itself.

"Lead on!" he said, steadily.

Koko led, and Zattillo was left behind. At the very beginning of the venture the rescuers were separated.

The Malay seemed never in doubt, but traversed the shapeless avenue among the houses with noiseless steps. Robert kept at his heels, more than once tempted to turn back, but lured on by that enticing bait, the promised finding of Mary Lee. Finally Koko paused by one of the larger houses.

"Remember," he said, "no blood is to be spilled if we can help it."

"I agree fully."

"But we must not be discovered. If Arrowpack knows, we die, and it is better that others lose life than ourselves. Draw your knife, ship-man!"

Robert's nerves grew a-tingle. Matters were getting warm.

"It is drawn!" he answered.

"If anybody molests me, you kill him!"

"Yes-es."

"Ship-man, you promised!"

Koko had thrown his head back suddenly, and there was a shade of suspicion in his voice, but he seemed to remind and warn rather than to threaten. Slender as was the strand that bound the two hugely-assorted allies, it was not yet broken. Robert, however, wavered before the keen gaze bent upon him. If Koko learned that he was not with Abner Caswell, there would be serious trouble for Inchwood.

"Of course!" agreed Robert, as if impatient. "Now proceed!"

"I have brought what we need. Wait for me!"

Koko slipped quietly through the door and was gone from sight. He had a foot as light as Zattillo, and it was as if a mere butterfly had winged its way inside, but the butterfly of this occasion was grim and battle-scarred Malay patriot.

What was to happen his ally did not know, but the latter hungered for Zattillo more than ever. The moment that the Malay disappeared, the appointed watcher ran along the back track. Believing that the prison of Mary Lee was surely discovered, he was resolved to summon Zattillo at once and have his help.

A hundred yards Robert ran, and then, as he looked for the little building into which Zattillo had gone, he met with a painful discovery. Of the several houses near, he did not know which was the one that he wanted. With perfect quiet all around, he had no clew to the probable whereabouts of his native friend.

The dilemma was painful. Baffled in his favorite plan, was he to linger for his friend or haste to Mary? After a moment the mental answer came concisely. If Mary was to be seized by Koko, he surely must be there to guard her safety.

Returning hastily, he reached the other house, and then a sudden thought. Fate had, as he looked at it, decreed that he and Koko must fight to the death. The Malay had been tempted with money to betray Arrowpack, but he would not submit to another change of allegiance, and as his plan would be to take the girl quickly to some place—doubtless the brig White Wing—the design must be frustrated by forcible measures.

All unholy unaccustomed to such wild work, Robert had grown somewhat flurried as he ran about, but he cooled off remarkably. He was ready to fight it out with the Malay.

Once more he listened, but the former silence was unbroken. Where was Koko? Was he to disappear as Zattillo had disappeared?

While this question was being revolved in his mind, somebody came forth from the house. It was Koko, and in his arms he bore a slight form. The form was swanket-muffled, and no word came from its lips, but the struggle going on showed an unwilling, probably a greatly frightened, captive. Robert longed to attack the Malay then and there, but, aware that this would be suicidal, he held his hand, though it was hard to think of the girl in the arms of the pirate.

"Come!" said Koko, briefly.

Bearing his burden lightly he hastened away, and Robert walked close to his elbow. In a few seconds the village would be passed. Then would come the struggle with the stout Malay.

CHAPTER XIV

A TROUBLESOME CAPTIVE.

The Malay strode on with his burden held tightly in his long arms, and the ease with which he bore her, together with the firm planting of his feet, told Robert that the man would be a dangerous opponent. In New York the young man had been an admitted athlete, but it dawned upon him that scientific skill might count for but little in a rough-and-tumble fight. Koko undoubtedly knew how to use every grain of his supple strength, and he had been fighting ever since he was a child. A bad foe, that dusky Malay!

How was he to be mastered? One way

Doctor's Best Formula.

Breaks Severest Cold in a Day and Cures Any Curable Cough.

This has been published here for several winters and has proven the quickest and most reliable formula obtainable for coughs and colds. "From your druggist get two ounces of Glycerine and half an ounce Concentrated Pine compound. Take these two ingredients home and put them into a half pint of good whiskey. Shake it well and take one or two teaspoonfuls after each meal and at bed time. Smaller doses to children according to age. Be sure to get only the genuine (Globe) Concentrated Pine. Each half ounce bottle comes in a sealed tin screw-top case. Any druggist has it on hand or will quickly get it from his wholesale house. Don't experiment with preparations because of cheapness. It don't pay to fool with a bad cold.

A Gentle Sting.

Miss Oldgirl—When I am doing serious work I hate to have a lot of men hanging around bothering me.

Miss Pert—You do a great deal of serious work, do you not?

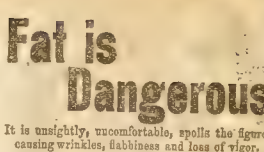
FREE TO OUR READERS

DR. W. H. MORSE of Hartford, Conn., author of the medical textbook, "New Therapeutic Agents," and authority on new remedies, is sending free to any who suffer from Rheumatism in any of its forms, Muscular, Sciatic, Lumbago, Neuralgia or Neuritis, information as to AN UNFAILING CURE. He has nothing to sell or prescribe. Be sure to mention this paper.

Fat is Dangerous

It is unsightly, uncomfortable, spoils the figure, causing wrinkles, flabbiness and loss of vigor.

Let me send you my Proof Treatment absolutely Free; I Have Safely Reduced Many of Excess Fat, a Pound a Day!



Note what my Treatment has Done for Others:

Mrs. W. D. Smith, Box 34 Abbott, Mo., writes: "I have lost 51 pounds by your treatment. I used to have heart trouble and shortness of breath; now I am well and can walk and work with ease."

Mr. A. Berlinguez, R. F. D. Box 34, Colfax, Placer Co., Calif., writes: "Your Treatment has reduced my weight 108 pounds; I never felt better and can do all my work with comfort.

Mrs. J. H. Wooldridge, Galena, Mo., writes: "Am wonderfully improved, have lost 65 pounds. Friends amazed."

I could fill every page of this journal with testimonials from grateful patients. *Reduce YOUR weight!*

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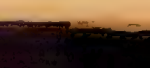

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and only one was promising. Robert was at his back and with drawn knife. A blow from that point, with Koko unprepared, would end it all. Robert would have been more than human if he had not thought of the chance, but, thinking, his manhood recalled from it. Well aware that Koko would serve him in that way if their positions were reversed, he could not, would not bring himself to the wretched cowardice of stabbing any man in the back.

How, then, was he to overcome the Malay? While he hesitated they passed the last of the houses and were close to the pit where the gold-diggers had labored. Koko half paused and looked about him.

"Where," he asked, "is your Captain Shrogg?"

"I don't see him," Inchwood replied.

"He is late, the fool! I dare not call to him."

"Go search for him," advised the sailor, "and I will care for the girl."

"Go you! I have tied up her mouth, and am holding her arms so she cannot get clear. It will not do to change. Go for your man Shrogg!"

Robert stood still, eyeing the Malay intently. They were not far enough from the houses to make attack safe, but it seemed that the time had arrived. He shifted his knife about so he could deal his companion a blow upon the head, hoping to stun him, but now there was a variation of the situation. A man emerged from the darkness of the adjacent trees, and Koko uttered a little exclamation

"Shrogg!" he added

The chance was gone. Mercy had made Robert hesitate [illegible] ction had made

"Scuttled!"

his foes two. The captain of the White Wing loomed as an ominous figure. Not so tall as either of the other men, he had a great breadth of shoulders, and was a dangerous opponent.

"Oh!" growled the newcomer. 'So you are here? Well, I've come to do my part in the fool trick. Got the gal, have you? Confound her! I hoped she would escape your clutches. Now, Malay, what next?"

Robert had dreaded being addressed by the skipper, for he was fully aware that he could not deceive Shrogg as he had Koko. The former had sailed with Abner Caswell from the Atlantic coast, and, though the darkness now deceived his eyes, he would notice a strange voice. As it was Koko that was spoken to, there was brief reprieve.

"My part," was the answer, "is well nigh finished. I have taken the girl, as you will know. 'Twas soonest you send her away to her home in the canoe the better, but it is for you to act, not me. Shall I carry her to your ship?"

'Speak out, Caswell'" snapped Shrogg, his manner impatient.

Robert dared not let the captain hear his voice, so he held up a hand, sent forth a warning sound from his lips like "wsh!" and motioned them away.

"Come children-hearted, all of a sudden, eh?" scoffed Shrogg. "You need not be so cautious, and you must give orders, for I won't. Speak out, man! What next?"

Robert felt himself on the horns of a dilemma, but he suddenly reached out his arms for Koko's burden. The Malay scowled in the darkness, for, though willing to be rid of the girl, he disliked this voiceless procedure, and saw no reason for it, but he did not rebuff the silent command. He loosened his hold upon the girl, and was passing her over when she began to struggle desperately. Make an outcry she could not, with the cover on her mouth, but she was suddenly a writhing figure that, when halfway between the two men, deftly squirmed clear of both and unceremoniously took to flight.

At this Shrogg fell to swearing in English, and perhaps the Malay's ejaculations were to the same end in his native tongue, but Robert was still mute. Hope had new life within him, and he bounded away in pursuit, but immediately he heard the others at his heels.

"Run the jade down and throttle her!" cried Shrogg, the nature of the man showing clearly. "First you know she will be yelling like a loon, and that will stir up the whole town. I told you from the start that if you tried to save her from Arrowpack she would reward you by upsettin' your plans."

Robert scarcely heard the words, for all his attention was centered in the runaway. She was flitting between the trees like a phantom, and he could not gain an inch, but presently Koko passed him, in spite of all the speed he could summon.

"White man can't run fast as woman!" tauntingly cried the Malay.

It did not seem an inappropriate remark, but when another hundred yards had been gone even Koko lagged. Robert overtook him and found him staring here and there in uncertainty.

"Have you seen her?" he asked

"Seen her?"

"She is gone," muttered Koko. "Has she hid, or outrun us all? But she must be near. Beat up the bushes! Look in every shadowy place. Hasten, ship-man, or we shall lose her!"

Shrogg was floundering after them and the combination made Robert desperate. All his schemes had gone wrong, and the girl's danger was acute. Rather than permit her to give the alarm, the Malay was likely to use her without mercy when found.

The three went here and there among the trees, and the hunt was close enough, but when ten minutes had elapsed it seemed certain that their chances were next to gone for a time. While they had sought helplessly, she had had opportunity to steal away. But where would she go.

It shocked him to think of Mary Lee on the island, cast upon her own resources, and so near her foes. Where would she hide? What could she do? Robert had resolved that he could not shout to her if he was a dozen, and could not well let the calamity be apprehended.

The three searchers had become somewhat separated, though they were within easy view of each other, when a voice sounded in a hail.

"Ahoy, there! What's doing here?"

Robert started. The voice was that of Abner Caswell, and turning, he saw a newly-come figure accosting Shrogg and Koko. The encounter gave him a shock. Both men knew that he whom they had believed was Abner was ahead of them, yet here was the real Abner accosting them from another point. Acute danger now threatened, and Robert stepped back

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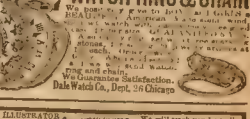

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into cover. As he did so he almost stumbled over somebody else, and, barely saving himself from a fall, he again shifted his gaze and saw the abducted girl. She was still half shrouded in the blanket taken at the start by Koko, but Robert noticed that she was tearing at the object the Malay had used to stop her mouth. This interested him little then, but he heard close to him

"Have no fear, Miss Lee!" he exclaimed. "I am a friend here to save you. I am Inchwood! Come with me!"

It was no time for elaborate explanations, and no time for ceremony. He caught her up bodily, heard high-pitched voices behind him that told him his enemies had penetrated a part of his secret, and then he started in rapid retreat, aware that trees now screened him, and devoutly hoping it might continue so.

Again the girl was an unwilling burden. She struggled, and with strength which taxed his muscles, but he held fast and ran on, all the while talking.

"Listen to me!" he urged. "I am a friend! Don't you understand? I am not a pirate, but Robert Inchwood. Pray be calm, and don't struggle!"

The good advice was of no avail, but he felt that the emergency demanded vigorous measures and vigorous flight. Explanations could be made later. With his face toward the waiting boat he hastened on as rapidly as the tangled way would permit.

Suddenly the trees ended, and hearing sounds of pursuit behind him, he grew anxious. At one side, however, were the rocks of the ridge, and he made for their cover. It was not far to the boat, but much might happen before it was reached, and when he arrived he had only a single man to aid him, if Zattillo remained missing.

For a time the excitement of the occasion had helped him to do what was required, but the struggles of his burden were constant and they made his task the harder. Now his strength began to fail, and he vehemently renewed his entreaties that the girl would remain quiet. She, however, pulled at her mouth-coverings in the former fashion, and, unable to speak, did not obey him in any particular.

He was staggering along, almost forgetful of his pursuers in the face of the clear knowledge that his growing weakness could not long be resisted, when fresh calamity came.

There was a shock from the rear, a blow which, as he well knew, was the precipitation of a human form upon his back, and he reeled and fell, losing his hold upon the girl as he did so. She slipped away, like an inanimate object dropped by chance, and fell close to his feet. This stirred him anew, and he half rose, only to be beaten down by a stroke that fell heavily upon his head.

What came next he never knew clearly. He was attacked and he fought back, but was overwhelmed by a shower of blows and then came—a blank!

His senses soon returned. He was still where he had fallen, but alone. Pain shot through his head, and he thought himself badly injured, but also remembered Mary Lee, and his resolution stirred within him sharply. He staggered to his feet. Posing himself dizzily, he looked about him excitedly. He saw no other person.

The enemy had achieved complete triumph. The briefly rescued girl was gone. Worse yet, she would now be held in close captivity, and he had no friend to aid him with plan or force of arms. Disheartening as his situation was, he nevertheless grew stubbornly resolved.

"She's on board the White Wing!" he muttered, "and I'm going there!"

CHAPTER XV

HOW IT ENDED

What Robert expected to accomplish against the full crew of the brig he did not stop to consider, but he turned back with dogged resolution. From the beginning he had been interested in Mary Lee, and the adventures of the night had made him more wrapped up in her. Forgetting that she was little less than a stranger to him, he was badly worried by her peril, and determined to give his help.

Half a dozen steps he took, and then a human form came gliding softly from the direction of the pirate village. He caught his breath sharply as he saw that the person bore a burden, and that it was like another human form.

Mary Lee again! But was her bearer friend or foe?

His hand strayed to his pocket in search of the weapon that had once been there, but he found it empty. As he struggled with the shock of the discovery he heard somebody else's eyes were sharper than his.

"Good, good!" cried the burden-bearer. "It is I, Zattillo!"

"What? And whom have you?"

"Mary, the same we want."

"By Jupiter! this is glorious. But is she injured?"

"Let me speak for myself," interrupted another voice. "I am not hurt, and oh, Mr. Inchwood, I am so glad!"

"Miss Lee, by all that's great! I thought you were lost, but good Zattillo has solved the riddle. Can I help? We want to be at the boat as soon as possible."

"Let me walk!" Mary exclaimed. "I am as able to do that as either of you, for I have seen active life from childhood. Good man, put me down!"

Zattillo had been slow to obey, but he now complied with her request. She proved her ability by moving as fast as they cared to go, but Robert ventured to keep a hand upon her arm.

"I hope," he said, "they have not used you with harshness."

"Really, I cannot say they have," she answered.

"What happened after I was struck senseless?"

"After what?"

"They beat me into unconsciousness before they took you away from me."

"I did not see you there."

"But it was I who carried you."

"What!" she cried. "Away from my father's island?"

"No, no! After you escaped from Koko."

She turned her head and looked at him closely. Lack of light prevented him from reading her expression, but he felt that she was at a loss. Wondering if she had received some injury that affected her mind, he added:

"I tried to make my identity clear to you, but that bandage over your mouth stopped all words from you, and I do not know whether you understood me."

"Why, there has been no bandage over my mouth."

Robert, staggered, began to wonder if it was he who was mentally disturbed, and to wonder if all his experiences were a dream, but they now arrived at the water. Zattillo had directed their course well, and they were near the cove where the boat had been left. The half-breed sounded a low signal, and an answer came quickly. Then they moved closer and saw Witllo and the boat. Total silence was at the rear, and they did not fear that Abner Caswell and his allies would alarm the village, but there was a certainty that they would pursue actively, so it was imperative that they go speedily.

All but Zattillo entered the little craft, after which he gave it a great push which sent it shooting away from land, but he had leaped in at the last moment, and all hands were together again. For a time they used the oars, but presently a favorable slant of wind was met, and they made haste to get the sail spread. Just as it filled and fresh movement was acquired Mary spoke nervously.

"Look back!" she directed.

"Do you mean on the water? Oh! now I see. Two men are at the point of land."

They stand and gaze after us. We have barely escaped them."

"Undoubtedly it is Abner Caswell and his helpers. They see us, and if it was Arrowpack or his men there would be an alarm."

"Abner Caswell? Why do you mention him?" Mary asked.

"Why, he was he who hired Koko to take you away."

She turned her gaze away from the men on the high point and faced Robert.

"Somehow, Mr. Inchwood," she said, kindly, "we don't seem to understand each other. I have not seen Abner Caswell here, nor do I know who Koko is. You lately spoke of carrying me. When was that and where? Then you mentioned that my mouth was tied up. I know nothing about that. We don't seem to understand."

Robert suspected that he understood, but he had one more question to ask.

"Where did Zattillo find you?" he asked.

"In the house where Arrowpack imprisoned me. He entered at great risk and took me away. I have seen nobody else."

"Then, by Jupiter! I have been acting the defender to the wrong woman!" Inchwood exclaimed. "Abner Caswell, Captain Shrogg, and a Malay named Koko, as well as myself, have been playing hide and seek all over the island with somebody I thought was you, though, as her mouth was tightly tied up, she had no way of speaking to say who she was."

He added a few words of explanation, and Mary, after a period of bewilderment, suddenly had light.

"That must have been Iilio, the Malay girl who kept me company in the house. I remember, now, that shortly before Zattillo came, I awoke and called to Iilio, but had no answer. She must have been taken away."

"Confound it!" exclaimed Robert, in deep chagrin, "I see it now. Koko entered to take you from the house, but made a mistake and took Iilio instead. All the while I was scheming to get you clear of the fellows, it really was the Malay girl. Well, I have covered myself with glory."

"So you have," said Mary, earnestly, "for you have ventured a good deal to rescue me, and met with rough usage in doing it. I am deeply grateful, both to you and Zattillo."

During the conversation the boat had been cutting the water swiftly. Not only the men on the point of land, but the island had disappeared, as they put additional leagues between boat and land, and as it was Abner's wish to get Mary away from Watlhoe, it seemed that they need not fear further trouble.

Being requested, Zattillo told his own story. The first house he had entered in his search for Mary had given him a check. A man was awake and discovery was barely averted. When he was clear again he could not find Robert, but he set about his task afresh, located Mary, and took her away as before shown.

Probably Iilio was by that time safe in the house from which she had been

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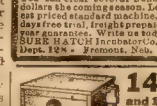

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taken. Her inability to free her mouth from the bandage was explained by Zattillo, who suggested that Koko had tied a "devil-fish knot," a device hard to combat, as effort at one point brought opposition from another.

Robert was beset with fear that they would not be able to come upon the ship readily, but the natives showed singular aptitude for finding the way, and in due time the adventurers were under the bulwarks of the Fair Lady. No time was lost afterward. As soon as they were on deck the sailors ran aloft and in a short time the ship stood away from the unfriendly waters.

Mary had been conducted below without delay, and a stateroom assigned to her. She was uninjured, and as her courage was good, she was as calm as usual when, after a short time, Captain Wood and the Inchwood cousins joined her in the cabin.

"I'm mighty glad," said the skipper, "to be able to take ye back to your home safe an' sound. Wish the credit laid to me, but an old sea-dog must be content to let younger lads do the rough-an'-tumble part o' lively jobs. Robert was the ace o' the pack."

"Hardly!" said that young man, flushing. "I proved to be a very low card, and Zattillo deserves all the credit, but maybe my good will saves me from ridicule."

"Ridicule!" Mary exclaimed. "Why, it cannot apply to——"

"But think of me fighting for Illo all that while——"

"The idea gets me sudden," said Captain Job, "that only for your long-continued wrestle with them chaps, they would 've found out their own mistake an' put in time to interfere when Zattillo took Miss Lee away."

"What is well thought of!" declared Mary. "Now, Mr. Inchwood, pray do not mention this any more. You did your duty, and I consider you one of my greatest rescuers. My gratitude is deep to all who had part."

"You make us the happiest Jack Tars afloat," said the skipper, gallantly. "Now Miss Mary, why did Arrowpack want you? Was kidnap you?"

"It was not his work at all. I was captured by one of his war parties, and he stormed loudly at its commander when I was brought to Watihoe but afterward he changed his mind. He looked at me—he looked—in a way I did not like; and I know he was eager to keep me. With me there he had a new idea, and it is now the same as if he had himself kidnaped me. I am dreadfully afraid I have not seen the last of Arrowpack!"

"Be you afraid he will go again to your father's island?"

"Just what I am afraid of, sir."

"Bad, bad! Wish I had men enough to lick that pirate out o' his boots, but my crew is a handful compared with his gang."

"All this trouble," interposed John, gloomily, "makes our hope of getting the treasure grow smaller."

"What is this matter of treasure?" Mary asked, growing animated. "I heard talk about it at Watihoe, but I don't understand what it is."

"What did you hear?" asked John, eagerly.

"Why, it seems that some time ago, as the Malays were building a new house, they came upon a lot of ancient money, at one point—ten thousand dollars in the old Spanish coins called pieces of eight. They dug them up near the surface of the ground. They thought but little of it, as they failed to discover more, but soon after the brig White Wing came, and either Captain Shrogg or Abner Caswell knew something, and they are now hoping for great riches."

"What more, what more?" cried John, quickly.

"That is all I know. What the men of the brig knew I failed to hear."

"How," asked Captain Job, "did the sailors make friends with the pirates so easy?"

"It seems that Captain Shrogg knew Arrowpack years ago and came to him for advice. The union of forces followed."

"That explains. We have wondered how Abner Caswell could get into Arrowpack's good graces. Oho! So Shrogg was an old friend! Fellow pirate of Arrowpack, maybe."

"Do you understand," Robert asked "that their only reason for thinking there is treasure on Watihoe is the fact that they found those pieces of eight?"

"That is all—except that the formation of the island had something to do with it."

"It is clear to us, Miss Lee. You shall hear all about it in the morning, for there is much to tell. Ten thousand dollars in ancient coins, eh? And yet their digging has brought no more to light? Hang it! I'm not so sure that Watihoe is the right island!"

"My hopes sink," admitted John. "Arrowpack's men must know these waters better than anybody else, yet they have not been able to tell Abner of an island like the Island of Gold. If they fail, what hope is left? We can find nobody who knows of a dot of land with gray cliff, and so on."

"Why not try Gogoti?" asked Mary, quickly.

"Who is Gogoti?"

"He lives on Payupah, and is reputed to be the oldest man within a hundred leagues of here. I have never seen him, but he is said to be a walking encyclopedia of information as to the islands."

"Just the man!" exclaimed Robert. "We will go Gogoti!"

At that moment Jackson, the carpenter, appeared at the foot of the companionway.

"Beg pardon, sir," he said, addressing Captain Wood, "but Mr. Pond would like to see you on deck."

Job gave heed to peculiarities in the boatswain's expression, and took it upon himself to answer:

"What's wrong, Chips? Speak right out! We are all equally concerned. Say it quick."

"Since you bid me, sir, I will. You remember that unknown man in the ship who was expected to scuttle us, and likewise that queer matter as to my auger? Well, sir, the scuttler has got in his work, in spite o' our watchin'. Holes have been bored in our hull, an' the water is comin' in lively. Blow my sails if I don't hanker to yardarm the mysterious scoundrel!"

By that time all the cabin party were on their feet.

"Scuttled!" cried Captain Job, explosively.

"Ay, ay, sir an' on our way to the bottom o' the ocean!"

This extremely interesting story will be continued in next week's Ledger, presenting the readers with some very strange happenings. If you are not a subscriber to the Ledger, you are strongly urged to send in your subscription at once. Every family should take the Ledger, as humor and stories and pictures make life brighter and pleasanter for all, bringing health and entertainment and doing every one good. Be wise and attend to this today.

* * *

His Hat Size.

There was a little old man in one of the big local department stores, the other day, trying to buy a hat. He was clawing over a big pile of headgear in vain search of something that might fit him, when one of the salesmen accosted him.

"What size are you looking for?" he asked.

"Somethin' I kin wear," [illegible] willin'ly answer.

"Of course—but what is your number?"

"You don't number a feller when he comes in here, do ye?"

"Why, no, but what's the number of——"

"Say, don't ye suppose I'll know when I come ter one th't fits me? I may be a farmer, but I ain't no durn fool. Go wait on yer customers, an' I'll get somethin' pretty soon. I got a lot o' time."

"So have I, uncle. I can stand here all day watching you try on hats, but it isn't necessary. If you can tell me what size you wear I'll get you a dozen of that size in a minute. It will save a lot of trouble, and it won't be quite so hard on the assortment."

"Well," acknowledged the old man, "I can't say that ain't reasonable. But I've clean forgot the size I wear. Besides, my head mighter growed or shrunk or somethin' sence 1892 when I got my last hat. But I wear a No. 10 shoe—git out a lot o' No. 10 hats, an' I'll try 'em on."

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My carburetor is doubly heated, and adapted to all grades of gasoline.

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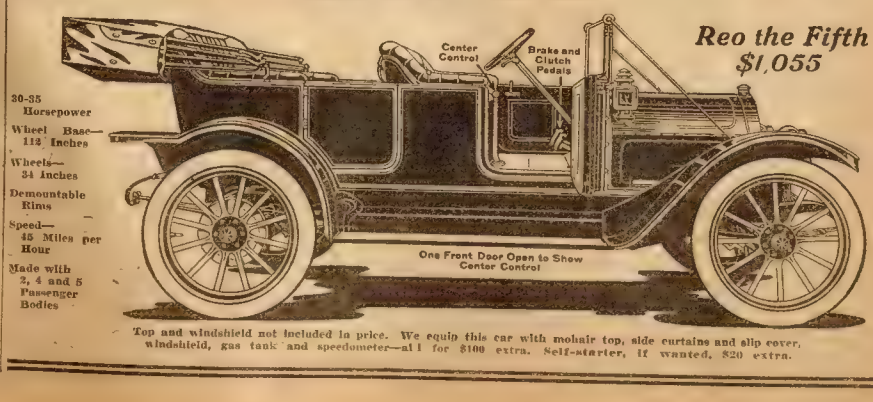

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Escaping the Snare

(Continued from page thirteen.)

Ainslie because I loved her," Jack frowned, but Kent went on unheedingly. "In one of Sir Gerard Courtnay's trunks I found a miniature of a beautiful woman, with raven black hair, blue eyes, and fair, exquisite coloring. It was a picture of Dorothy Ainslie's great-grandmother, and it might have passed for a picture of the girl herself, so close was the resemblance. The lovely face fascinated me. I would spend hours gazing upon it. When I saw Dorothy Ainslie for the first time I thought the dead had come to life. Does she know? Have you told her?" he asked, rising and looking at Jack.

"Yes," Jack replied, quietly. "I have told her."

"A thousand curses upon you!" cried Luther Kent. "But for you she would have been mine."

"Thank God that it was in my power to save her from such a fate!" said Jack, with great feeling.

"You shall never have her!" cried Kent, and quick as a flash he whipped a pistol from his pocket and leveled it at Jack

But the detective was upon him before he had time to fire. There was a brief struggle, a report, and Luther Kent fell to the floor with a bullet in his breast. Whether he had turned the pistol on himself and fired, or in the struggle it had been accidentally discharged, neither Jack nor the detective was able to determine. The last words of the man, however, seemed to point to the former conclusion.

Jack was at the telephone and the detective was standing beside Kent. The latter looked up at him and said: "It's better to die like this than be hanged."

Before a physician, summoned by Jack, could reach the room, Luther Kent was dead.

Jack wrote to Dorcas Kent telling her of her son's crimes and of his death. The only reply he received to his communication was a slip of paper, inclosed in an envelope, on which was written the words. The sins of the parents shall be visited upon the children."

He never saw Dorcas Kent again. She disappeared from the lodge, and no one knew whither she had gone. A freshly-made grave mound, still, the daughter of the new lodgekeeper, opened the gates for Lady Courtnay when she and her husband arrived at Courtnay Manor.

Jack was very glad that the dark-browed woman, with the story of sin and sorrow written upon her face, was not the first to meet his fair young wife at the gates of Courtnay Manor.

The End.

A WONDERFUL WIFE.

"Do you remember, mother?" asked Mrs. Albaugh, "that before I was married I used to hope that when I got a husband he would be a whole-souled, hospitable man?"

"Yes, I remember," was the smiling answer, "and I wondered then if you realized just what it means to have a man in the family who issues invitations to everybody all the time."

"I realize it now, anyway," said the daughter. "Why, mother, Jimmie is absolutely the most inordinately hospitable person I ever saw. He seems to want every one he knows to have a meal in our flat."

"It's because he's so proud of his little home, I suppose," returned her mother.

"Well, I'm afraid he wasn't very proud

"Saturday night we had the Fiskes—you know they are the people in the apartment below us—to dinner, and as they had entertained us so nicely when we first moved in, of course, I wanted to give them a spread, so we had a four-course dinner. Just after dinner Thora got a telephone message that her brother-in-law had had an accident, so without washing a single dish she left for South Chicago to help her sister take care of him.

"When we got up Sunday morning there were so many soiled dishes I could hardly get breakfast. I complained to Jimmie that it would take me all day to wash those dishes. 'Nonsense!' he said. 'We'll go to church and dine downtown, and then tonight, when we have taken off our Sunday clothes, we'll do the dishes together in no time.'

"That looked pleasant to me and I turned my back on my disorderly flat with a delightful runaway sense of freedom.

"While we were in the restaurant rain began to fall in torrents, so we lingered over our dessert and coffee a long time. Finally the storm subsided and we went home. Imagine my astonishment when Jimmie unlocked our flat and I beheld his cousins that I hardly knew at all—Robert Albaugh and his wife—sitting in our parlor, dressed in Jimmie's lounging robe and my kimono!

"'Well, hello!' cried Jimmie. 'We're mighty glad to see you.'

"'I'm afraid we came a little early,' said Mrs. Robert as I shook hands with her. 'You see, we have taken some liberties.'

"'Not at all! We are delighted,' bubbled Jimmie. 'This is great. But how, did you ever get in?'

"'Well,' said Robert, 'when we found you weren't at home we thought we'd take a ride in the park, as this is the first time we've had our car in town. But we hadn't gone more than two blocks when that cloudburst came and we got drenched. We were too wet to go anywhere that we couldn't make ourselves at home in, so we ran back here and I climbed the fire escape to your kitchen window. The man who lives under you rushed out and threatened to have me arrested. I told him not to bother me.'

"'And I told him who we were,' added Mrs. Robert, 'and begged him not to stop Rob, as we were expected to tea.'

"'When she said that I just looked at Jimmie, but Jimmie was busy assuring Robert that it didn't in the least matter that he has cut our new window screen in order to get in, so my precious husband never noticed my accusing glance. But when I got him alone for a minute I said, 'James Albaugh, you invited your cousins to tea and never told me!'

"'I forgot all about it,' he answered. 'But you can get up some little thing for supper, can't you?'

"'Well, what did you say to that?' asked her mother.

"I went of course I could and I pitched in, while Jimmie talked to his guests. I washed enough dishes to set the table and I made hot biscuits and coffee and I made a salad of the cold chicken that was left from the night before. Inside of an hour they were all eating."

"I was pretty hot and flurried, but I tried to be bright and chatty while they ate. When they left Mrs. Robert squeezed my hand in the most sisterly manner and whispered, 'The Albaugh men are all alike, they've got sense about one thing—they choose capable wives.' So I knew that, despite all my efforts, she had taken in the whole situation."

"I hope Jimmie was properly contrite?" remarked the mother.

"O, Jimmie was a perfect dear. He said that night while we were washing the dishes that after this experience he wouldn't be afraid to ask a whole regiment to dine, for I was such a wonder. I don't want you ever to think, mother, that Jimmie is unappreciative.

"No, nor inhospitable," added her mother, dryly.

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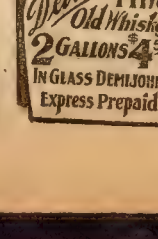

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Of course it could never have happened unless an innocent had been entrusted with it. It was a matter unimportant on the face of it, and mainly with buttons, that Mrs. Brandt was writing to her friend Mrs. Clement. But fate, in the shape of young Mr. Roger Peel intent on paying a party call, rang the bell and in its native innocence to disaster.

"Clara, you'll mail it for me?" Mrs. Brandt said. "I suppose you never forget to do it."

Mr. Peel, with fervent protestations as to his high trustworthiness, put it into his pocket, and then promptly forgot all about it for nearly a week.

"Why doesn't mother match those buttons for me?" wondered Mrs. Brandt. "I can't get on with Peggy's dress at all without them." Meanwhile in the distant city a worried grandmother fretted herself and her two unmarried daughters about the unwonted silence.

"Why doesn't Anna write?" she demanded. "It's a fortnight since she sent me any word about the baby's teething."

"Oh, mother," said Clara, her youngest, soothingly, "it isn't much over a week, really! And perhaps you'll hear today!"

"But Anna has such foolish new ideas" persisted the old lady. "Now I was a natural mother. Children's care seemed to come to me by instinct. Anna has too many advanced theories."

She worried the day by, and at last sleep descended upon the careworn family. In the meantime Mr. Peel had discovered Mrs. Brandt's unmailed letter in the pocket of his evening clothes, and with the speed that is born only of guilt he thumped on a special-delivery stamp and took it to the postoffice himself.

At 12:30 the city household was peacefully slumbering; at 12:45 the electric bell buzzed and buzzed insistently.

Mrs. Clement sat bolt upright in bed. "It's a telegram from Anna!" she cried. "The baby's worse! Oh, Clara, Ruth, hurry!"

After a few moments of necessary delay, a drowsy messenger boy thrust the delayed letter in Ruth's hands.

"What does it say? What does it say?" wailed Mrs. Clement. "Tell me quickly!"

"Oh, I don't dare look!" said Ruth, shuddering—she had inherited her mother's temperament for bridge-crossing. "It's a special delivery."

But the more practical Clara took it from her limp grasp and opened it, then burst out laughing.

"Oh, mother, it's just buttons!"

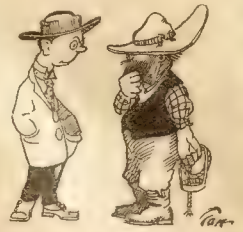
"Has he swallowed them?" shrieked Mrs. Clement. "Give me my kimono! Help me get ready! I'll take the 2:30 train."

"No, no!" explained Clara. "Anna just wants buttons for Peggy's dress. It's dated a week ago."

At last the meaning reached Mrs. Clement's fear-ridden mind, and instead of taking the train she went to bed, relieved, although indignant.

But young Mr. Peel is still explaining how it happened, for, as he himself says, "he never forgot to mail a letter."

* * *



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With a great sob the president of the society arose and handed the laurel which encircled his brow to the snake story man.

And then they passed silently out into the night.

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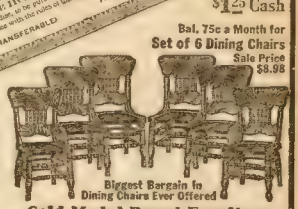

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The Young Settlers;

Or, In the Days of Daniel Boone

By Captain Jack Judson

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Begun in No. 9, March 2. Subscriptions can begin with that issue, or back copies can be obtained from news stands, our agents, or by mail from the office of publication.

CHAPTER IV.

IN THE LION'S LAIR.

THE broken arrow which had been cast at the feet of the two young borderers, Jack and Justin, could have but one meaning. It was a warning that the frontier was soon to be deluged in blood by the tribes from the wild Ohio wilderness. The boys had heard of such warnings, though they had never had one brought so thrillingly to their notice.

The red hand which had thrown the shaft into the cabin vanished before they could look the second time. There was no use in following its owner, for ere this he had already disappeared in the depths of the forest, with his painted face turned toward the tribal grounds of his people.

"We can't remain here," said Jack, after a spell during which he had carefully examined the strange messenger of coming war. "We are on the menaced outskirts of the dark and bloody ground. The fort is the only place now."

"I care little to go back there and be under the glaring eye of Simon Kenton, who has no love for us because of Red Mink's escape from custody."

"We have Boone for a friend," was the prompt response. "Daniel will curb Kenton, and he dare not do more than hate us."

It was in the soft gray of the next morning when they appeared before the gates of Boone's fort. The intrepid old pioneer greeted them with smiles, and admitted them at once.

"I'm glad you've come, lads," said he. "We are going to take a scout to the north and see if we can discover signs of the threatened foray. Simon went off last night, after he came back from his futile chase after the young Shawnee."

"He lost Red Mink, then?" said Justin.

"Yes, for once Simon found a better sprinter than himself, and the discovery nettled him not a little."

"And Old Baldy?"

"He is with us and will go along. We need such men as Sims just now."

A part of the morning was taken up with preparations for the foray. The settlers cleaned their rifles and agreed to leave a strong guard in the fort to protect the women and children during their absence.

There was danger in the scout, for the wily red men might be nearer than the settlers thought, and were liable to ambush the whole company and destroy it.

The band set out and soon penetrated the wilderness between the fort and the river. They crossed the stream and plunged into the forest beyond. By noon they were far from Boonesborough. Boone acted as guide, for he was familiar with the country, and every eye was on the alert.

The declining sun found them miles away. The great forest, scarcely ever trodden by the foot of a white man, lay around them. With their hands on their trusty rifles the pioneers proceeded, looking in every direction.

"Beyond yon ravine we will see a bit of open country," remarked Boone to his companions.

The head of the fearless column had reached the heart of the ravine when rifles seemed to blaze on every side. More than one man fell.

"Stand firm!" rang out the sonorous voice of Daniel Boone, as his companions braced themselves and faced the rain of lead which burst from the weapons of the unseen foe.

The whole forest was filled with the fierce warwhoops of the savages, and whenever the whites caught sight of a plumed head it went down before their unerring rifles. Suddenly down the sides of the ravine rushed the enemy with redoubled shouts. The battle waged hot between red and white. It soon became obvious to the whites that they were outnumbered.

"Each man for himself!" cried Boone, as he felled a Shawnee chief and then turned to fly.

Jack and Justin heard the command and took to their heels. Away they went with the fleetness of deer, spurning every obstacle in their path. Half a dozen Indians with uplifted tomahawks took after them, and their yells only increased the boys' speed.

Justin was leaping a fallen tree when his feet caught in an unseen vine and he fell sprawling on his face. The next moment he was seized by dark hands and jerked erect without ceremony.

"Down!"

"Boy run like a buck," was hurled into his face, as he was whirled around to stare into the face of an Indian. "Him make good Shawnee."

The captured youth did not reply, but looked to see what had become of Jack. His anxiety was soon unpleasantly relieved, for he saw Jack escorted back, held by two young bucks who were overjoyed at their victory. Grim smiles passed between the two boys when they were brought face to face.

The Indians now went back to the battleground. The dead whites were scalped, and half a dozen savages who had fallen in the conflict were taken up and carried away. The only prisoners taken were the two boys, and they were bound with deer thongs.

"Not a pleasant ending to our scout," remarked Jack, in low tones, when they found themselves surrounded by their captors. Justin was too chagrined to reply.

The band now divided. A part of it continued toward Boonesborough, while the other half turned their faces toward the deeper forest which stretched to the north.

All day the boys were hurried along, menaced by the tomahawk. The Indians spared not their fists when their young captives lagged, and their brutal voices told them that if they did not keep up they would be brained without mercy.

The night came, but the tireless band did not halt. The boys were given a few bites of jerked venison, but were not permitted to eat it save as they tramped on. Soon, while forest growing denser and more mysterious.

It was near the end of the second day when one of the Indians set up a loud whoop, which was responded to by an answering cry, and a few moments later an Indian village burst upon their sight.

Our young friends nerved themselves for the ordeal which they felt was before them. As the band descended a hill the whole population of the Shawnee town was seen waiting for the victors.

"Keep up a stout heart, Jack," said Justin. "We are just entering the lion's lair, and shall soon feel the teeth of the beast."

"They shall never call Jack Niekirk a coward," was the brave reply.

In another minute they were in the midst of the howling population. The young Indians began to belabor the boys with all sorts of sticks, dancing about them like a lot of youthful fiends.

"I wish they would untie my hands!" cried Jack, as he tugged at his bonds. "There'd be some bloody noses here."

It is needless to say that Justin felt the same way, for they were helpless while their enemies kept up their brutal treatment, which seemed to give them unfeigned pleasure.

After a while the boys were taken to the center of the village and thrown upon the ground. Even then the brutality did not cease. The young red scoundrels came forward with renewed devilishness, and the unprotected captives were made to feel more harsh blows.

Not far off stood an old warrior watching the torture. Suddenly his dark eyes seemed to dance with merriment, and all at once he drew his scalping knife and by two cuts severed the cords that secured the two boys. In an instant Jack and Justin were on their feet.

"Now for vengeance!" cried the former. "We'll give these young rascals some of their own medicine."

Justin was as eager as his friend to turn the tables on their persecutors.

"Spare not," shouted Jack, as he leveled a blow at the chief torturer and sent him sprawling on the ground. "Bloody noses and closed eyes, Justin! Give them more than they bargain for."

The following instant the border boys were in the midst of the astonished foe, striking right and left, with every blow telling on the young Indians' faces. The boys were blessed with stout arms and knew how to use them, and when their fists came in contact with a face its owner went down like a young bullock. Presently the squaws came to the rescue, and the battle became general.

A group of warriors stood aloof enjoying the fracas with expressive grunts. Whenever Jack or Justin felled a foe the warriors clapped their hands and laughed. It soon proved too much for the young reds. They drew off to nurse their bruises, and at length the boys stood victorious.

"I guess they've got enough," ejaculated Jack, as he surveyed the scene with intense satisfaction. "They won't try their game very soon again."

"I don't know," was the answer, in doubtful tones. "We shall yet see more of these young devils."

The boys were now led to a large hut in the middle of the village and thrust inside. The interior of the place was quite dark, and the only resting place was a heap of foul skins which filled one corner.

They had seen the door shut in their faces and were left to their reflections. They saw the day wane by the disappearance of a streak of light which came in at one of the crevices. The long night was coming on and they wondered what it would bring forth.

What had become of Boone and his companions they did not know. Perhaps all had been overtaken by their enemies and murdered. If so, the fate of Boonesborough would not long be left in doubt.

The boys could not sleep. The danger by which they were surrounded kept sleep from their eyes. It must have been midnight when they heard the door open with the slightest noise. The boys sprang up and put themselves on the defensive as best they could.

"White boys here?" said a low voice.

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I guess we couldn't well be anywhere else," responded Jack.

"I'm your friend."

It was the voice of an Indian that greeted them, and they were at a loss to know who was speaking.

"I'm a captive like yourselves," continued the same voice. "I am Lucy McDonald. I have been the captive of the Shawnees for a whole year. I have been adopted into the tribe and am known as Gentle Fawn. My Indian mother is Nokomis. It would be death to me to be seen here. You are in the shadow of doom, but remember that you have one friend in this terrible place."

The voice ceased and the door was closed.

"One friend in the lion's lair!" cried Justin. "That is something, but what can Lucy McDonald do?"

CHAPTER V

CAUGHT NAPPING

Leaving our young friends in the midst of the Shawnee town, let us return to Boonesborough, which had received its first sorrow. The battle in the ravine had proved disastrous to the gallant little band headed by Boone.

Not more than one half of it had returned—unhurt from the bloody fray, and they had been chased almost home by the warriors. It was only by dint of fleetness that any had escaped. Boone himself had eluded his pursuers, and Old Baldy, by a stratagem, had fared as well. The others came back in straggling parties until at last the last one was behind the stockade. Then the pioneers took count of their loss.

Jack and Justin being among the absent, it was believed that both had fallen beneath the tomahawk of the scarlet foe. Old Hickory was not so sure on this score. He knew the desire of the Indians to capture boys whom they could adopt into the tribe, and he said, with some reason, that he believed that the boys had fallen alive into the enemy's hands.

Of course the triumphant war party was expected to attack Boonesborough, but when two whole days had passed without its appearance, the occupants of the fort began to breathe freer.

"I guess I'll take a little scout," said Old Baldy, as he shouldered his rifle and halted before Boone. "This life is just a little too tame for me."

Daniel did not object. He knew the old man's restless spirit, and believed that there was more than "a little scout" in his mind. Sims soon vanished beyond the fort, and tramped the lone trail with his face turned to the north.

Not long afterward he came in sight of the cabin by the creek, and filled with curiosity, he opened the door and looked inside. An object on the floor attracted his attention.

"T— bloody arrow!" he exclaimed, picking up the broken shaft which had startled Jack and Justin. "No wonder the young chaps thought it time to pull out when this thing dropped at their feet. It means war and warpaint."

The old man seemed inclined to go no farther for a while, for he had found the cabin intact, and, resting his rifle against the logs, proceeded to build a fire on the forest hearth.

Presently a low whine came to his ears, and opening the door he was confronted by Shot, the big dog which had escaped Indian vengeance in some unexplained manner.

"Come in, old fellow," said Old Baldy, in kindly tones, and Shot entered and licked his hand. "Seems to me you're one o' the rescued," pursued the hunter. "Leastwise you're not with the boys. Purty troublesome times these, old dog. A feller when he goes to sleep doesn't know that he'll wear his scalp in the mornin'."

Shot seemed grateful for the fire, for he stretched himself in its warmth and studied Old Baldy's face as if seeking there the whereabouts of his young masters.

The long day passed. As the shadows lengthened and the fire burned low, Old Baldy began to prepare for the night. He placed his rifle within easy reach, and taking a blanket, stretched himself before the fire with an ammunition to the dog to keep at least one eye open for the foe. If he had known what was moving through the forest, he might have obeyed his own injunction to the animal.

Not far away four forms were traversing the dark trails it utter silence. They moved in single file, all great, agile figures, each bearing in one hand a rifle and in the other that terrible weapon of the Kentucky wilderness, the tomahawk. As though they had eyes in the soles of their moccasined feet, they avoided the dry twigs so that not one snapped at their velvet tread. The four Shawnees were headed by a chief named Negasiway, or the Crouching Catamount, one of the most dreaded Indians of the forest.

There was not a Shawnee who did not hate Old Baldy with all the intensity of his savage nature, and any one would have given his right arm to capture him. Once before they had him tied to the stake in the Ohio country, but with the power of a giant he had wrenched himself loose with the fire about him, and, catching up an Indian boy, had hurled him into the flames and made his escape. This terrible deed of daring had increased the Indian's hatred for Sims, and the tribes had vowed eternal vengeance against him.

The cabin lay in the Indians' path. It stood between them and Boonesborough, and when they saw a faint glow in the lone window they came to a dead halt and looked. Presently the march was again taken up, and at last all stood before the cabin. Their surprise and joy may be imagined when they beheld in the half-light men of all men whom they wanted. They could scarcely conceal their delight as they gazed into the cabin and beheld their greatest enemy within their grasp. Fortune had at last favored them.

All at once the dog on the hearth sprang to his feet and sent forth a cry which awakened Old Baldy in an instant. He stared at the window to see that he was covered by four rifles directed at his breast. Well did he know that behind those terrible weapons were four Shawnees who had never felt the instincts of mercy.

"Old Baldy caught," came from one of the grinning savages behind the guns.

The old man essayed to laugh.

"It looks that way," said he, as he almost dropped his rifle. "For once you've caught the weasel asleep."

"White man throw down gun," commanded Crouching Catamount.

Old Baldy swallowed hard. It was a command which he had never obeyed, and now to hear it from the lips of his bitterest enemies was gall and wormwood to him.

"Guess I might as well throw down Old Heartsease," he replied, and suiting the action to the words, he tossed his rifle aside, and it landed against the logs where it assumed an upright position.

The cabin door had been secured by a wooden bolt, but one of the Indians launched himself against it, and the heavy door fell in. The next second all four were inside.

"White man sleep," grunted Crouching Catamount.

"Sleep like a fool," was the reply.

"Indians look long for Old Baldy."

"Wal, you needn't look farther, for I'm that very individual. I'm Old Baldy in the flesh, though I'm not likely to remain in that condition long, if you're goin' to pay off some old scores."

The old man's coolness astonished the Shawnees.

"Where white boys?" asked one.

"That's the puzzle."

"Huh!" grunted the savage. "Mebbe Old Baldy looks for them to come to him."

"I'm blessed if I know which way to look. The last I saw o' the lads they were scatin' a streak o' lightnin' from the death ravine. Gee whiz! you should have seen the young uns cut dirt."

The Indians looked at one another but did not speak. They evidently feared that their captive might make a sudden move, for all at once they threw themselves forward and bore him against the wall.

"You're just a little rude," snorted the old man. "'Pears to me you're afraid o' Old Baldy."

"White man full of tricks."

The frontiersman was secured with thongs which cut into his flesh, after which he was thrown upon the floor, while the Indians proceeded to ransack the cabin in hopes of finding something that suited their fancy. For once, at least, they were doomed to disappointment, for there was little to reward them.

"Where white boys keep their powder?" suddenly asked Crouching Catamount, standing over the captive with his tomahawk held menacingly in his hand.

"You'll have to ask 'em."

"Old Baldy lie! Him knows."

The old man's eyes flashed.

"If you'll untie my hands I'll make you choke on your words!" he exclaimed.

"Negasiway never unties a rattlesnake."

"By Jupiter! that's a compliment," grinned Sims. "Mebbe you'll find some powder under the floor."

This suggestion was taken in the spirit for which it was supposed to be intended, and presently the four Indians were tearing up the flooring of the cabin. Old Baldy's eyes glittered at this.

The eager savages did not see him roll toward the hearth. They did not see him boldly thrust his wrists toward the blaze and shut his lips hard while the flames attacked the thongs. All at once Old Baldy launched himself upward. A wild yell broke from his lips.

The crouching Indians sprang erect, but the rifle which had been jerked from the wall spat fire in their faces, and one of the painted quartette lurched backward dead.

Then like a giant of destruction the old man threw himself forward, and the clubbed weapon came down again and again till no red man stood erect but Crouching Catamount.

Old Baldy with a laugh placed himself against the door and looked into the blazing eyes of his remaining foe.

"We've long been lookin' for one another," he said calmly. "You've been huntin' me, an' I've been huntin' you."

The Shawnee chief was silent.

"We'll have it out fairly," continued the backwoodsman. "Let the best man win."

He cast his rifle aside as he finished, and drew his hunting knife.

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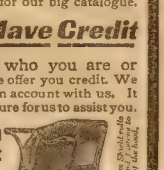

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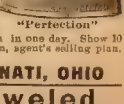

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"Crouching Catamount never felt fear.'

"I'll count three, then we'll close for the tussle."

The old man saw his enemy brace himself.

"One—two—three!"

At the last numeral they leaped at each other and closed in an instant' Each found in the other a foeman worthy of his steel. They separated after a trial of strength and faced each other once more. There was blood on the Catamount's naked arm. Once more they came together, striking out like demons, till Shot sought out a corner and whined out his fears.

Suddenly the Indian caught Old Baldy by the throat and hurled him across the door. A yell pealed from his lips When the old man recovered the red was at the door. He saw him jerk it open. Old Baldy dashed forward, and when he tore it open the forest resounded with the wildest warwhoop that had ever assailed his ears.

CHAPTER VI.

A FRIEND IN NEED.

"Look' Justin, the day has come deeply."

Justin Rudy sprang from his cot and looked at the streak of light which confirmed Jack's observation.

The boy captives of the Shawnees were still inmates of the rude but strong cabin into which they had been thrown soon after their arrival in the village.

During the night they had talked about Lucy McDonald, the fair captive who had escaped them that they had at least one friend among the red masters of the forest. They had not been permitted a sight of her face, so they could only conjecture what she was like. Her name was a strange one to them, for they had never heard of her, but they knew that more than one young girl had fallen into the hands of the Indians and been adopted into the tribes.

The boys went to the crevice and looked out upon the village, which was already astir. They noticed something which had escaped their eyes. At one end of the open place or square in the center of the town stood a covered building on a raised platform of earth. This they took to be the council house, and while they gazed they saw moving figures about it.

Presently there was more stir in the Indian town, and as the sun crept higher they perceived that many Indians were moving toward the odd-looking structure. Some seated themselves on the ground within the oblong circle, while others moved about, warriors all, with solemn faces, but armed.

"Are we to face a trial?" asked Justin. "I fear, Jack, that these inhuman wretches are going to take vengeance upon us for the loss of their companions in the fight at the ravine."

Jack made no reply. He was watching the proceedings outside, and his mind was filled with conflicting thoughts.

All at once three Indians were seen advancing upon the cabin, and presently the door was thrown open and the boys were commanded to come forth. They stepped out into the light, and were instantly gripped by strong red hands. They were hustled across the space that intervened between the prison but and the council house, and placed in the center of the barked arena, where they were savagely regarded by almost a hundred warriors. In a few moments the outer ring of the place was filled with women and children.

Our young friends noticed that several of the boys had swollen faces, proof of the punishment they had received in the lively fisticuff of the previous day. These young bloods cared the boys with all the savagery of their nature, and seemed to delight in the doom that threatened the captives. That they were to undergo a trial was now apparent to the two unfortunates.

Little did Jack and Justin think, when they set out from the mountain country of North Carolina, that they would ever face a mob like this. They had hoped for a life of freedom in the Kentucky wilderness, but their dreams had been rudely broken

When the whole population of the village had assembled, a chief of imposing appearance arose and opened the council. This was Black Panther, as the boys knew by the skins that clothed a part of his body.

As he talked, the captives, who understood not a word of his barangue, guessed that he was for putting them to the torture. They saw the looks of the listeners darken as he proceeded, until a wave of vengeance pervaded the whole crowd.

After Black Panther came a young warrior whose voice was not pitched in so high a key. There was friendship in his tones, and he talked like one who, though a savage, had mercy in his heart. He was listened to with much impatience, and when he concluded a painted war club was handed round. The boys noticed that some of the savages took the club and struck the ground with it but once, while others struck three times.

The war club went its rounds in solemn silence. As it came back to Black Panther, who had not lost sight of it for a moment, a yell was heard on the outskirts of the village, and every eye was turned in that direction. Five figures came into view and advanced upon the council house.

Into the circle leaped a man, who, though clad as an Indian, had the movements of a white man.

"A renegade!" whispered Jack. "Now may Heaven help us!"

"The White Shawnee!" went audibly from lip to lip.

"Just as I thought," said Justin. "It is Mike Nullen, the renegade."

The newcomer seemed to take in the whole situation at a glance. His voice rang out in piercing tones. There was no misunderstanding his appeal to the savages. More than once he turned upon the boy captives and cried for their blood. He influenced the dark passions of the tribe till there arose a cry for death which could not be stilled.

The war club resumed its rounds. There were now three strokes where now and then there had been but one.

"The villain has prevailed," whispered Jack. But for his coming the Indians might have been merciful."

The final vote was for death; the arguments of the young brave had been dashed aside by the bloodthirsty appeal of the White Shawnee.

Not far from one end of the council house and in the exact center of the town stood a charred and blackened stake. The boys knew what it meant.

All at once the voice of Black Panther roared out, and Justin was seized and hurried toward the stake. The whole village now resounded with the most hideous yells. The Indian boys danced with delight, and the squaws added to the din that prevailed. A dozen hands lashed Justin to the torture stake, while Jack closed his eyes to shut out the terrible sight. The bright sun was high in the heavens, and its light streamed upon the scene.

When Justin had been bound to the stake, a young Indian came forth with his naked tomahawk and threw it forward. It struck the wood beside Justin's face and quivered there. Another savage performed the same feat, only the hatchet came a little nearer to the boy's cheek, and sent a shiver through his frame.

Presently, with a yell, Mike Nullen leaped forward and flashed his tomahawk in the sun. Justin saw the wicked gleam that lit up the White Shawnee's eyes, and braced himself for the ordeal that was coming. There was murder in the viper orbs of this inhuman wretch. The hatchet was thrown above the renegade's head and poised there for the cast.

"Down!" suddenly cried a voice which caused every one to turn in the direction from which it had come.

The silence of death followed the command. Mike Nullen paused and glared at the speaker with all the mien of a forest tiger. Nor far away there stood a young girl dressed in Indian garb, with beads on the fringe of her frock and feathers in her dark hair. She was as lithe as an arrow, and her eyes glittered along the barrel of a rifle that covered the bosom of the startled renegade.

"Stop!" she cried, her voice ringing out in clear English. "If the White Shawnee throws his tomahawk the bullet of Gentle Fawn will find his black heart!"

Black Panther, with glowering visage, stepped forward and covered the girl with outstretched finger.

"What would Gentle Fawn do?" cried he. "The tribe has voted for death and she must not interfere."

The rifle at the girl's shoulder did not move.

"Gentle Fawn will not see one of her race suffer at the stake while she remains a Shawnee!"

"The boy helped to kill the Shawnees," retorted the chief.

"Who struck first?" cried Lucy McDonald. "Let Black Panther answer Gentle Fawn."

"Take the girl away!" demanded the renegade. "What right has one of her blood to interfere with the laws of the red tribes?"

"By what right does the White Shawnee curse the earth?" was the flashing answer. Let him put up his hatchet, for if it leaves his hand he will never again tread the trails of the wilderness."

The uplifted hand fell, but Mike Nullen did not put up the tomahawk.

This startling scene had not occupied the space of three minutes. Jack, with bated breath, was watching it all, his eyes roving from the girl to the renegade, and from thence to the chief, who stood like a statue in the sunlight. Suddenly Black Panther strode forward and his hand shot outward.

"Untie the white boy," he commanded. "If she saves him I shall never again draw my hatchet for the Shawnee nation!" flashed Nullen.

A dozen hands released Justin from the stake, and he stepped to Jack's side. With a border epithet the White Shawnee cast his hatchet upon the ground and

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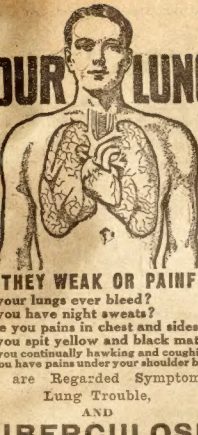

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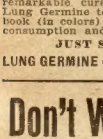

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walked away. A murmur of applause followed his action.

The boys shall run the gantlet," said Black Panther. "Does that satisfy my white brother?"

"No!" came from over the renegade's shoulder. "When the Shawnees have women's hearts in their bosoms it is time for me to seek a braver nation."

Lucy McDonald had lowered her weapon and was gazing at the vanishing figure moving toward the hills that inclosed the Indian village. Suddenly Mike Nullen paused and faced the populace.

"I shall take vengeance on the young varmints!" cried he, with uplifted hand. "Let the Shawnees spare them to fall into the power of the White Shawnee. The time is coming when Black Panther will call for him to help him against the whites, but he shall call in vain."

With this he turned on his heel and was watched by the breathless red men till he vanished from sight. A moment later there was a rush by many Indians into the forest near at hand. The red-skin youths distanced all in their eagerness, and before long the whole crowd came back armed with clubs and withes of every description.

"It's the gantlet now," said Justin to his companion. "We've got to race the avenue of death. Don't lose your nerve, Jack. Remember what Old Baldy told us about the gantlet."

"It all comes back to me, Justin. There will be bloody heads before I get to the end of the torture line!"

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The Wall Street Nemesis.

(Continued from page six.)

savagely for having lost a half-minute.

But his efforts with the file did not yield freedom. They opened a gap in the thinnest part of the metal, but it was not sufficient to enable him to force a foot free. He quickly formed a new expedient, therefore, as he heard Tyson slam his way back into the garage.

With a supreme effort he arose and hurled himself against the door of his little prison room. Slenderly hung, it gave way instantly, and Kendall, unable to retain his feet, plunged headlong through to the stairs.

Tyson, half way up, was so surprised that he failed to get out of the way of the hurtling body. Kendall's head struck him fairly in the stomach, and the pair of them rolled in a stunned heap to the foot of the steps.

Kendall, the first to recover, gulped with joy as he felt his feet free. The jolt of his fall had served to snap the weakened anklets. The severed parts still jangled at his heels, but he was no longer shackled.

As he rose to his knees in the dark, his hand touched the bottle of liquor Tyson had gone after. He gripped the flask at its neck, but as he attempted to get on to his feet, the chauffeur came suddenly to consciousness and seized him by the throat.

Frantic at this impending defeat of his strategy, Kendall raised the bottle of brandy and brought it down savagely upon the head of the man beneath him. He heard the glass break, and felt the brandy trickle over his hand. He raised the moistened flesh to his lips and thirstily licked it. As he did so, the hand at his throat relaxed, and he drew himself free. Tyson fell back insensible.

The plunger shook himself as he got to his feet. He was a sorry spectacle. His evening clothes were seamed with wrinkles, the bosom of his dress shirt was broken and blackened. He was hatless. At his feet dangled the sections of the severed anklets. His wrists were raw and his fingers were blood-stained.

Yet he did not hesitate upon the order of his going. But first he knelt and deftly extracted from Tyson's pocket the roll of bills with which he had bartered for liberty. Replacing the money in his own pocket, he bolted out into the night.

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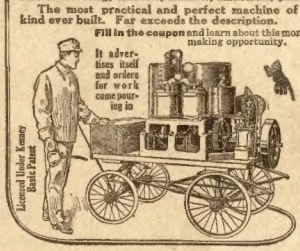

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Allegretto and the Pie

By ELLIS PARKER BUTLER.

(Copyright by W. G. Chapman.)

ONE of the kindest-hearted ladies in Betzville is Miss Allegretto G. Spads, who is naturally kind to man and beast; but there are times when kindness ceases to be a virtue, and becomes a nuisance, and Miss Allegretto reached the conclusion week before last that one of those times had come.

For over three years a tramp, Seattle James by name, has made Miss Allegretto's back porch a place of rendezvous whereat to meet a strawberry pie, and although Miss Allegretto has a heart second to none in size, she grew tired of Seattle James a week ago last Tuesday. For the first year Seattle James met one of Miss Allegretto's strawberry pies every year, and for the second year he met one of her strawberry pies once a month, but this year he started in to meet a strawberry pie once a week, and it vexed Miss Allegretto.

Miss Allegretto is properly proud of her strawberry pies, and she likes praise, and the best praise is the eating them, but when Seattle James began coming every Tuesday, and also began sending another pie-loving hobo for each other day of the week, Miss Allegretto began feeling that she was becoming a mere pie-factory, and that it was interfering with her duties as one of our leading social lights. No lady can turn out a continuous stream of large, circular strawberry pies, day after day, and week after week, and still do her duty by the Betzville Sewing Society. And yet Miss Allegretto had not the heart to turn a poor pie-hungry hobo from her door with cruel words.

He crushed it up against the house and bit at it.

For several weeks she brooded mournfully over the situation, and she was losing flesh rapidly when a complete solution of the matter came to her at a meeting of the Betzville Sewing Society. Uncle Ashdod Clute himself said the solution was one of those strokes of genius that come to a person once in a lifetime like a flash of lightning out of a clear sky.

Miss Allegretto was sewing away and brooding, and didn't know what in the world to do when she noticed that her needle was a little dull, and she reached into her sewing bag and pulled out her emery bag to sharpen her needle a little. Her emery bag, like every other emery bag in Betzville, was shaped like, and looked like, a ripe red strawberry, and the moment she saw it the solution came into her mind. Without a moment's hesitation she gathered up all the emery strawberries in the sewing society, and then excused herself, and went home and made a strawberry pie out of them. When the pie was completed it was one of the best-looking strawberry pies Betzville had ever seen turned out by Miss Allegretto G. Spads, and without a word she set it on the kitchen window-sill to cool.

Half an hour later Seattle James wandered up with his sweet smile, and when he saw the pie resting peacefully on the window-sill he grinned joyfully and reached for it. He opened his mouth and took a bite. Miss Allegretto says nothing can describe the struggle that followed, but the meeting of an irresistible force and an immovable obstruction. At the first bite Seattle James looked pained and surprised, but he was game and bit again. Then a glare of anger came into his eyes, and wrapping his arms around the pie, he lay down and hugged it while he chewed at it angrily. He seemed to feel that his whole future strawberry pie life depended on his eating this one, and he meant to eat it or die in the struggle.

The Folly of Paring Corns

Here's a typical corn.

Paring that corn takes off just the top layers. It merely relieves the pressure for a little time.

The root remains, and the whole corn soon returns.

And that paring is exceedingly dangerous. A slip of the blade means infection, and blood poison often results.

Ending Corns

The way to end corns is with a simple Blue-jay plaster.

The pain stops instantly. Then the B & B wax gently loosens the corn. In 48 hours the whole corn comes out.

No pain, no soreness, no inconvenience.

Over fifty million corns have been removed in this way, since this wonderful wax was invented. Every other treatment is discarded forever when a person once tries this.

For your own safety and comfort, find out what Blue-jay does.

A in the picture is the soft B & B wax. It loosens the corn.
B protects the corn, stopping the pain at once.
C wraps around the toe. It is narrowed to be comfortable.
D is rubber adhesive to fasten the plaster on.

Blue-jay Corn Plasters

At Druggists—15c and 25c per package

Sample Mailed Free. Also Blue-jay Bunion Plasters.

Bauer & Black, Chicago and New York, Makers of Surgical Dressings, etc. (142)

$29.50 Buys This Elegant Top Buggy.

WARRANTED FOR Five Years.

Retail Price $60.00. Buggies, Surreys, Spring Wagons, Farm Wagons. We have cut out our Jobbers, our Wholesalers and our Retailers and offer YOU their profit. Write today for our

Free Catalog and Delivered Prices.

Mutual Carriage & Harness Mfg. Co.

Station 10 H, East St. Louis, Ill.

I Guarantee to Cure

ECZEMA TO STAY CURED!

It is also called

SALT RHEUM, SCALD HEAD, TETTER, ITCH, WEEPING SKIN, MILK CRUST, PRURITUS—these are different names, but all mean one thing—ECZEMA.

DR. J. E. CANNADAY THE DOCTOR WHO TREATS NOTHING BUT ECZEMA.

I prove every word that I have said—I give to every sufferer

A FREE TRIAL

just to show you that you need my treatment. It is yours for the asking. If you have been to other Doctors, if you have taken patent medicine, and used lotions and salves till you are disgusted, write to me—I will send you ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE, A TRIAL TREATMENT. There are no strings to this statement. There is not one cent to pay—not a penny accepted. I know what my trial treatment will do. I know that it will convince you more than anything else on earth that you need my treatment.

Don't Miss this Chance for a Cure

If you are SUFFERING FROM ECZEMA you can only be cured one way—REMOVE THE CAUSE. What is the cause? ACID IN THE BLOOD. How do you remove it? By cleansing the blood of the ACID.

My treatment is soothing—relieves the dreadful itching at once and cures the disease quickly. You don't have to take treatment for months and months. ONLY ONE CASE IN TEN needs the second treatment—ONE IN FIFTY needs the third—think of that!

What Eczema Is

Eczema is a disease of the blood and affects all parts of the body—the face, lips, ears, hands, feet, genital organ, etc. SYMPTOMS.—Yellowish red eruption; the pimples or patches may swell and the itching is so great the person will scratch the top off, then they bleed and dark scales form; there is an oozing of matter. In some the skin cracks and bleeds. Itching is terrible; a person suffering will scratch till they bleed. Scales form on parts of the body, where the clothing comes in contact.

Ten Years Guarantee

I positively Guarantee that every case cured by me will stay cured 10 years! It must be good or it could not be sold this way.

Strong as Rock of Gibraltar

I am a graduate from two leading medical schools. I am the holder of a GOLD MEDAL, taken in Competitive Examination. Does this not show that I am fully qualified? I will send you my book, showing endorsements of business men of all classes. Also testimonials and pictures from cured patients everywhere. Some of them may be YOUR NEIGHBORS.

MY BOOK

is the most complete book ever sent out. I explain every form of the disease plainly and fully. I show pictures of many severe cases, which are extremely interesting. I send you names of thousands who have been cured and are grateful.

DR. J. E. CANNADAY
251 Park Square, Sedalia, Mo.

Reliable Beyond Question

This is a statement from the bank of my home town, where I've done business for years.

THIRD NATIONAL BANK
UNITED STATES DEPOSITARY
CAPITAL STOCK $100,000 SURPLUS AND PROFITS $450,000
SEDALIA, MO.

Sedalia, Mo., Jan. 1-1910.

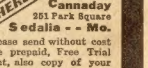
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:—

Dr. Cannaday, of our city is a Physician, making a specialty of Eczema.

We have handled his business exclusively for one year and eight or nine days. His patients deposit their money with us, in their OWN NAME, to be paid to the doctor, if his treatment is satisfactory. If we remember correctly, we have been called upon by only FOUR of his patients for their money, and it seemed then, that the fault was more with the Express companies than with the treatment failing.

Considering the number of cases he treats, we regard his success as remarkable. We consider him perfectly reliable, and assure those placing their money with us a fair, square, business deal.

Yours truly



FREE OFFER—CUT HERE

Name.....

Address.....

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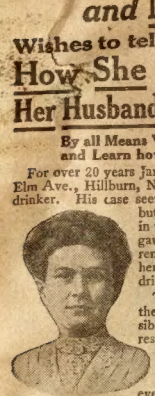
Treatment and literature sent in plain wrapper.

This Wife and Mother

Wishes to tell you FREE How She Stopped Her Husband's Drinking

By all Means Write to Her and Learn how She did it.

For over 20 years James Anderson of 204 Elm Ave., Hillburn, N. Y., was a very hard drinker. His case seemed a hopeless one, but 10 years ago his wife in their own little home, gave him a simple remedy which much to her delight stopped his drinking entirely.



To make sure that the remedy was responsible for this happy result she also tried it on her brother and several of her neighbors. It was successful in every case. None of them has touched a drop of intoxicating liquor since.

She now wishes everyone who has drunkenness in their homes to try this simple remedy for she feels sure that it will do as much for others as it has for her. It can be given secretly if desired, and without cost she will gladly and willingly tell you what it is. All you have to do is write her a letter asking her how she cured her husband of drinking and she will reply by return mail in a sealed envelope. As she has nothing to sell do not send her money. Simply send a letter with all confidence to Mrs. Margaret Anderson at the address given above, taking care to write your name and full address plainly. *(We earnestly advise every one of our readers who wishes to cure a dear one of drunkenness to write to this lady today. Her offer is a sincere one.)*

To Women Who Dread Motherhood

Information How They May Give Birth to Happy, Healthy Children Absolutely Without Pain—Sent Free.

No women need any longer dread the pains of childbirth, or remain childless. Dr. J. H. Dye has devoted his life to relieving the sorrows of women. He has proved that all pain at childbirth may be entirely banished, and he will gladly tell you how it may be done absolutely free of charge. Send your name and address to Dr. J. H. Dye, 16 Lewis Block, Buffalo, N. Y., and he will send you, postpaid, his wonderful book which tells how to give birth to happy, healthy children, absolutely without pain; also how to cure sterility. Do not delay but write today.

MARVEL BAIT makes fish bite any season and when they bite our Marvel Automatic Fish Hook lands them every time. We give free a can of Marvel bait if you will help us introduce them in your locality, also 3 Marvel Automatic fish hooks, one of each size—small, medium and large. Write us today.

Japanese Novelty Co.,
Department 74, Clinton, Iowa

SOLID GOLD RING FREE

Write for 6 boxes Standard Blood Tablets to sell at 25 cts. each. We send Tablets postpaid and allow 30 days to sell them. When sold return $1.50 and we send this genuine SOLID GOLD BAND RING.

Standard Remedy Co., 5 Cortlandt St., Dept. 65 New York City

BRACELET & RING FREE

We will give this beautiful gold finished, extension bracelet and gold lily ring absolutely free for selling only 12 pkgs. of our Souvenir Post Cards at 10c a pkg. REGAL MFG. CO., Dept. B 2 Chicago

Quart of WHISKEY FREE

We will send a quart of pure, straight, Kentucky whiskey ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE for a very simple service. Send no money; write to-day.

Monarch & Co., Dept. D-71, Covington, Ky.

LADY WANTED

To introduce Dress Goods, Skirts and Petticoats. Make $10.00 to $20.00 weekly. Best line—lowest prices—sold through agents only. No money required. New spring patterns now ready. Samples and case free. Standard Dress Goods Co., Desk 77-C, Binghamton, N.Y.

X-RAY The latest scientific wonder. Clothes and flesh turn transparent and bones can plainly be seen. Price by mail 10c.

Parker Novelty Co., Desk 104, Chicago

Catalog for Women in our Catalog of TOILET and NECESSARY articles. Send 2c stamp. Fairbank Supply House, 4-R, 60 Wabash, Chicago

Sometimes he held it down with one foot while he chewed at it, and sometimes he crushed it up against the side of the house while he bit at it snappishly, and once in a while he would stagger off a few feet and lie on his back and pant for a few minutes while he gathered new strength for the attack.

Miss Allegretto said she watched and waited with bated breath, for she felt that her whole future career hung in the balance. If Seattle James held out she was condemned to everlasting pie-making, but if the pie held out she would be free. It looked as if the strong nature of Seattle James would triumph in the end, for after each defeat he arose with renewed vigor and tackled the pie again, and Miss Allegretto had about lost hope when a factor she had not considered came into play. The tireless spirit of Seattle James remained unwearied, but his teeth were fading away. Every time he bit into an emery strawberry the emery sharpened his teeth a little more, and the sharper and finer his teeth became, until at length they wore away entirely. In less than half an hour he had worn his teeth entirely off, and when he realized that they were gone, he uttered a long soul-racking cry, took a last bite at the pie with his toothless gums, and started north on a dead run. Nothing more has been seen of him since.

As soon as he was out of sight, Miss Allegretto took the pie and nailed it to the front gate, where it still remains. Once or twice a day a tramp wanders up to the gate, but the moment he sees the pie nailed there he utters a loud yell of consternation and lopes down the street, holding his teeth with his right hand. Uncle Ashdod Clute says that if there was only some way of rigging up the pie so that it would chase the tramp there would be no stopping the tramp until he hopped off Plymouth Rock and drowned himself in the salty waters of the stern and rock-bound coast, but up to the present he hasn't discovered how to make a strawberry pie follow the trail of a tramp.

The Funny-Hap to appear in next week's Ledger is called "Gubbs' Auto-House." Don't miss it.

* * *

TROUBLE FOR ONE.

He started for his work in town.
Then stopped, then sneezed; the sat him down.
Dejectedly beside the street,
Then, groaning, staggered to his feet.

Ten thousand hammers banged his head!
He wobbled home and sought his bed.
His brain contracted to a crumb,
He felt his heart fall out of plumb.

His feet were cold, his lungs were hot,
His mouth was just a furry slot,
With muscles cracked, heat dried his tears,
A cataract was in his ears.

His eyeballs squeaked whene'er they turned,
His epiglottis rasped and burned;
He quaked with cold from head to toes,
Indeed, the poor man nearly froze.

One moment, and the next the heat
Made him white-hot from head to feet.
No time to make a will at all—
Just time to reach his bed and crawl.

Beneath the covers with a groan,
A most sepulchral, ghastly moan.
The doctor said, and pursed his lip:
"Hello! I see you've got the grip."

* * *

Snagge—He died of complications, did he not, somewhere out west?

Baggs—Yes; a rope got complicated with his neck.

* * *

Not to Be Translated.

At a dinner party a learned clergyman insisted on quoting Greek. The lady sitting next to James Payn asked for a translation. Payn's Greek was rusty. Accordingly he assumed a blush, and hinted to the lady that it was scarcely fit for her ear.

"Good heavens," she exclaimed, "you don't mean to say——"

"Please don't ask any more," murmured Payn, "I really could not tell you."

ILLINOIS — the Best Watch on Earth — Now Sold on CREDIT

For the first time in history the great genuine *Illinois* Watch is now sold by mail on the easy payment Plan. No man or woman need be, nor should be, without a famous *Illinois* Watch.

This is the greatest triumph of our unbelieved impossibility made possible. It will revolutionize the watch business. Just think of owning the world-renowned *Illinois* and paying for it as you please! For over *40 years* the *Illinois* has been acknowledged the standard—the great conspicuous watch. Twice—the one watch chosen and *worn by the great men and women of our nation.*

A Guarantee That Means Something

Part for part—in accuracy, in wear, finish, beauty, quality of material and workmanship, and every *other* feature, the *Illinois* is superior to any other watch at *any price.* Both the *makers and we stand back of this remarkable* time-piece with an ironclad, legal, broad *guarantee*—a guarantee that *means* something—that *protects you* in every respect—that assures you of the best watch on earth.

Largest Watch Distributors In The World

For *over 35 years* we have sold all kinds of watches and honestly can say that we have never seen a watch—at any price—equal in quality to the marvelous *Illinois.*

How We Save You Money This famous *Illinois* will cost you less than inferior makes. *Nowhere* else can you buy a *genuine Illinois* on credit—*we* are the *exclusive* credit *distributors.* If you buy *from us,* you'll get it on *approval*—you take no *risk*—you have *our guarantee* and the *maker's* and you can *pay as you please.* No dealer can under-sell us even for all cash on delivery. **Free Book** Get our *free,* beautiful, profit-sharing book, describing this great *Illinois* watch—reproducing many handsome styles. It's worth owning. Address

The American Watch Company of St. Louis
Dept. 207 St. Louis, Mo.

Gold-tipped Whiskey Glass and Patent Cork-screw. Free with 4 gal. order.

TRY THIS WHISKEY AT OUR RISK

AND GET THIS DECANTER FILLED WITH WINES AND CORDIALS FREE

This is the famous old MELLOW SPRINGS WHISKEY—private stock—the brand that once you try you'll always call for. We want you to try it and we'll take all the chances. Send us your order—any order in the list below—and use a full quart bottle; try it yourself; let your friends sample it; test it in every way; you're the judge; and if you're not more than satisfied that it's the biggest whiskey bargain you ever struck, just return the unused portion and we'll refund your money on the lot. Just look at these prices:

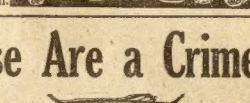
4	Full Quart Bottles MELLOW SPRINGS WHISKEY	$2.25
8	Full Quart Bottles MELLOW SPRINGS WHISKEY	4.25
12	Full Quart Bottles MELLOW SPRINGS WHISKEY	6.25
24	Full Quart Bottles MELLOW SPRINGS WHISKEY	12.25

FREE: With every four quarts of MELLOW SPRINGS WHISKEY you order we will send you absolutely FREE a handsome scroll crystal glass decanter, with scroll glass stopper to match, filled to the brim with your choice of delicious Sherry, Port or Angelica Wine or Manhattan Cocktail. This decanter is full size, free from advertising matter, and is a useful ornament to any sideboard. In ordering be sure and state contents desired.

Remember that this offer is for the genuine old Mellow Springs, the same straight, pure, aged-in-bond whiskey that physicians have always recommended for medicinal and home use. There's not a better whiskey to be had at any cost. Time was when you couldn't buy it for less than $1.25 the quart; but by selling direct to you and cutting out all intermediate profits and salesmen's expenses we have squeezed the final price down to the last minimum. Note—These are FULL QUART bottles. Address orders to

MAYCLIFFE DIST. CO., WAREHOUSE 42, ST. LOUIS, MO.

FREE DINNER SET



Family size. Beautifully decorated with PINK ROSES & GOLD. Grandest offer ever made. Thousands of sets sent out & everybody delighted. That's our record, let us prove it to you. Sell only 12 boxes of our Cathartic Remedy at 25 cts. a box. We send it by mail, it sells like hot cakes. Then send us the $3.00 & our handsome 51 piece dinner or tea set is yours FREE. Not even freight charges from your pocket. You will get a BETTER SET than you expected. Satisfaction guaranteed.

WESTERN REMEDY CO. 9-X 1360 Wells St., Chicago, Ill.

Trusses Like These Are a Crime!

Get Rid of Elastic Bands, Springs and Leg-Straps. Such Harness Has Forced Thousands to Undergo Dangerous Operations.

Trusses like these shown above—the belt and leg-strap, elastic and spring contractions—sold by drugstores and many self-styled "Hernia Specialists"—make life miserable for everybody who wears them.

Moreover, they often do immense harm—they squeeze the rupture, often causing strangulation—dig into the pelvic bone in front—press against the sensitive spinal column at the back.

The Plain Truth Is This.

Rupture—as explained in our free book—can't be relieved or cured—can't even be kept from growing worse—unless constantly held in place.

Just as a bandage or splint is the only way a broken bone can be held—the right kind of truss is the only thing in the world that can keep a rupture from coming out.

What a difference it will make when you get that kind of a truss.

And you can get exactly that kind of truss—without risking a cent of your money.

It's the famous Cluthe Truss or Cluthe Automatic Massager.

Far more than a truss—far more than merely a device for holding the rupture in place.

Self-regulating, self-adjusting.

No belt, elastic belt or spring around your waist, and no leg-straps—nothing to pinch, chafe, squeeze or bind.

Try It 60 Days at Our Risk.

We have so much faith in the Cluthe Truss —we have seen it work wonders for so many others— that we want to make one especially for your case and let you wear it at our risk.

We'll give you 60 days' time to test it—and if it doesn't keep your rupture from coming out, when you are working and at all other times —if it doesn't put an end to the trouble you've heretofore had with your rupture—if you don't get better right away—then the truss won't cost you a cent.

How It Strengthens and Heals.

In addition to holding the rupture, the Cluthe Truss or Cluthe Automatic Massager is constantly giving a soothing, strengthening massage to the weak ruptured parts.

All automatically—the massage goes on all day long, all without any attention whatever from you.

The World's Greatest Book on Rupture

Don't go on letting your rupture get worse—don't spend a cent on account of your rupture until you get our free book of advice.

This remarkable book—cloth-bound, 82 pages, 21 separate articles and 19 photographic pictures—took us over 40 years to write—took us that long to find out all the facts we've put in it.

It explains the dangers of operations and why they don't always cure to stay cured. Exposes the humbug "methods," "appliances," "plasters", etc.

And tells—absolutely without misrepresentation—all about the Cluthe Truss—just how it holds—how it gives the curing massage—how it is waterproof—how it ends all expense—how you can get it on 60 days trial—and gives names and addresses of over 4,000 people who have tried it and want you to know about it.

Just use the coupon, or simply say in a letter or postal, "Send me your book." In writing us, please give our box number as below—

BOX 25—CLUTHE COMPANY—
125 East 23rd Street, New York City.

Send me your Free Book on the Cure of Rupture.

Name .....

Street .....

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SPEAR Will Trust You Wherever You Live—Wri[te] For His Free Catalog

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The rich and prosperous class can always command the luxuries of life, but the average home lover needs the Spear System of Credit to the Nation. I want 1,000,000 families to say of me: "He helped us to furnish and beautify our homes." I ask for no higher tribute to my life's work.

Write for my Free Catalog today.

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Prepare Now for Spring Home Furnishing

No matter where you live, you can easily buy everything needed for spring home furnishing from us on credit and on easy payments to suit your convenience. All you need to do is to mail us your name and address and we will at once send you, **Free,** our Mammoth Home Furnishing Catalog, containing illustrations from photographs and full descriptions of thousands of articles in Furniture, Rugs, Carpets and Home Furnishings sold by us on long time, open account, easy credit terms. Whether you happen to need any article of home furnishing right now or not, the time will come when you will want the **Spear Catalog,** and you should write for it at once. Mail the coupon below, or send your name and address on a postal card.

A beautiful high color Brussels Rug, red rose design, with either green or tan ground. Guaranteed full 9-wire Tapestry Brussels with wool facing. This is the greatest genuine Brussels Rug value you ever saw. It is perfectly safe to order direct from this, as we positively will refund your money if on receipt you are not perfectly satisfied. Mail the Coupon below today with $1.50 cash.

No. C. W. 4602—Size 9x12—Price $11.95 $1.50 Cash, Balance 75c per Month

Spear Makes Credit Buying Easy

The **Mammoth Spear Bargain Catalog** brings before you, in your own home, the largest, choicest, most varied and carefully selected stock of money-saving merchandise for the home ever before collected. We show you an assortment of Carpets, Rugs and Draperies in actual colors, patterns and designs from photographs of the original goods. You can select anything you want from hundreds of articles in

Furniture,	**Ranges,**	**Sewing Machines,**	**Silver,**
Carpets,	**Refrigerators,**	**Washing Machines,**	**Springs,**
Rugs,	**Clocks,**	**Lace Curtains,**	**Go-Carts,**
Stoves,	**Dishes,**	**Mattresses and Bedding.**	

And under the **Spear System of Home Shopping,** you can make your selections to much greater advantage than if you were to visit even the largest City stores; because we offer you not only a vastly greater assortment, but you can make your choice **at home with your family at your elbow.**

No. C. W. 201—Price $11.65—$1.50 Cash, Balance 75c Month

This handsome Metal Bed is *Spear's* exclusive design, and is an extraordinary bargain. A Complete Bed Outfit, consisting of heavy, perfectly constructed Iron Bed, any color, 4 ft. 6 ins. wide, a good woven wire spring with coil supports; 50 lb. cotton top mattress and 2 pillows, all for $11.65. Money back if not delighted. Order by lower right hand corner Coupon.

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Your credit is good with us. Why not use it? Under our liberal open account, easy payment plan, you can have every possible advantage in buying for your home, possessed by the most favored and well-to-do shopper in the city stores. Our credit system is extended to honest people, **everywhere,** regardless of their income. You need not deny yourself on account of a lack of ready cash. Select what you want from our Catalog, pay a little cash down and a little each month. We do not charge you for trusting you, so do not deprive yourself of anything you need, and do not lose the interest on your money by neglecting to use your credit with us. Just send for the **Spear Catalog,** select what you want and pay for the goods as you use them.

Spear Prices Always Lowest

While our credit terms are the most liberal in the country, yet our prices are the lowest. This is because we buy goods in such vast quantities that we secure better prices than would be possible to smaller concerns, and by extending our business to tens of thousands of customers all over the country, we can afford to accept just one small added profit from each sale. We allow no store or factory on earth to undersell us. Get our prices and be your own judge of whether or not we save you from 20 to 40 per cent on your home furnishings. Those who take advantage of the **Spear System of Credit Buying** not only get the benefit of **quality** in the home furnishings they buy of us, but also make an actual saving of from one-fifth to one-half on their purchases. Old customers know this. New ones find it out on their very first order. That is why the **Spear Business** is growing by wonderful leaps and bounds.

Spear's Library Table Bargain

No. C. W. 3774. Price, $8.95 $1.50 Cash, 75c per Month

A large, heavy table 28 in. x 42 in. distinctive Colonial design, finished in American Quartered Oak, highly glossed, fitted with drawer. Guaranteed to give satisfaction.

You Can Have a Full Month To Decide

Anything you select from our Bargain Catalog will be shipped **on approval.** Keep the goods 30 days, then if not fully satisfied, the goods may be sent back at our expense and we'll refund your money. You can plainly see that under the **Spear System,** the goods must actually sell themselves, after a 30 days' home trial. If we were not absolutely sure of the sterling, dependable quality of our goods, we could not afford to make this offer. Every article shipped from the **House of Spear** is sold under a guarantee, backed by over $1,000,000 capital and assets, to be precisely as described in the **Big Spear Bargain Catalog.** You simply **cannot** take any risk in dealing with us.

Order No. C. W. 531, Price $4.95—75c Cash, Balance 50c per Month

Wonderful Rocker Bargain

A large, comfortable, solid oak Rocker with high wide back, fully tufted and buttoned. Seat is large and roomy, upholstered with high grade black Sylvan leather over full steel springs and beautifully ruffled edge to match back. Construction is solid golden oak throughout, with high gloss golden finish. Wide arms, front posts of handsome design. Order by coupon.

Spear's Extension Table

No. C. W. 2322 Price $10.95 $1.50 cash 75c per month

A Solid Oak Extension Table, finished rich golden. **$1.50 Cash, 75c per Month.** Extends 6 feet. Has 42-inch top, heavy 8-inch fluted pillar and large claw feet. **30 days' free trial.**

"Steinway Special" Sewing Machine

Fitted with High Arm, Improved Drop Head, Ball Bearing Iron Stand. Beautifully Carved Quartered Oak Case, highly glossed. Automatic Lift Head—Dust Proof Case. Full equipment of steel attachments and accessories.

Guaranteed 10 Years — Price $18.45

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